

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 879

S.P. 376

In Senate, February 24, 2023

**An Act to Place Restrictions on Candidate Speech and Clothing,
Buttons and Other Items at Voting Places**

Reference to the Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator ROTUNDO of Androscoggin.
Cosponsored by Senator: HICKMAN of Kennebec, Representatives: BOYER of Poland,
MALON of Biddeford.

1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

2 **Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §682, sub-§2**, as amended by PL 2019, c. 371, §21, is further
3 amended by amending the first blocked paragraph to read:

4 These limitations do not prohibit a candidate ~~from attending the voting place and orally~~
5 ~~communicating with voters as long as the candidate does not attempt to influence their~~
6 ~~vote. A candidate may not state the name of the office sought or request a person's vote,~~
7 or no more than one representative of a candidate, from greeting a voter if the candidate or
8 representative of the candidate does not state the name of the office that the candidate is
9 seeking in that election year or wear any button, name tag, apparel or label or have or use
10 any item or sign displaying the candidate's name or the name of the office the candidate is
11 seeking or otherwise express support for or opposition to a party, a candidate or a ballot
12 question.

13 **Sec. 2. 21-A MRSA §682, sub-§3, ¶A**, as amended by PL 2009, c. 253, §27, is
14 further amended to read:

15 A. This subsection does not apply to advertising material on automobiles traveling to
16 and from the voting place for the purposes of voting. It does not prohibit a person who
17 is at the polls solely for the purpose of voting from wearing clothing, a campaign button
18 when the longest dimension of the button does not exceed 3 inches or a hat that displays
19 the name of a candidate or an advertising or campaign message if the message does not
20 expressly advocate for the passage or defeat of a ballot question or election or defeat
21 of a candidate for an office that is on the ballot for the election that day.

22 **SUMMARY**

23 This bill places restrictions on the speech of candidates and representatives of
24 candidates and buttons, clothing and other items at voting places.