

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 1297

H.P. 822

House of Representatives, March 23, 2023

**An Act to Notify School Boards and Select Boards That Lobbying
Associations Are Not Governmental Agencies**

Reference to the Committee on State and Local Government suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R. B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative ANDREWS of Paris.
Cosponsored by Representatives: ADAMS of Lebanon, BAGSHAW of Windham,
GREENWOOD of Wales, LYMAN of Livermore Falls, POLEWARCZYK of Wiscasset,
SAMPSON of Alfred, SOBOLESKI of Phillips.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §1259** is enacted to read:

3 **§1259. Notice of nongovernmental agencies influencing school board directors**

4 **1. Notice of nongovernmental entity.** A nongovernmental agency or organization or
5 other private entity that has as its mission or purpose or as part of its activities the
6 influencing of a school board, a director of a school board or school board affairs shall
7 register with the secretary of the school board prior to having contact with, submitting
8 information to or engaging in an official capacity the school board or a director of that
9 school board.

10 **2. Director form.** Upon taking office, a director of a school board shall read and sign
11 a form with a list of all nongovernmental entities registering under subsection 1 prepared
12 by the school board secretary stating that the director understands and acknowledges that a
13 nongovernmental entity on the list is not a governmental agency, has no governmental
14 authority and is a private organization that has as its mission or purpose or as part of its
15 activities the influencing of school boards, directors of school boards or school board
16 affairs. An executed form under this subsection must be kept as part of the records of the
17 school board.

18 **Sec. 2. 30-A MRSA §2534** is enacted to read:

19 **§2534. Notice of nongovernmental agencies influencing municipal officials**

20 **1. Notice of nongovernmental entity.** A nongovernmental agency or organization or
21 other private entity that has as its mission or purpose or as part of its activities the
22 influencing of a select board, an elected municipal official or municipal affairs shall register
23 with the municipal clerk prior to having contact with, submitting information to or
24 engaging in an official capacity the select board or a municipal official of that municipality.

25 **2. Municipal official form.** Upon taking office, an elected municipal official shall
26 read and sign a form with a list of all nongovernmental entities registering under subsection
27 1 prepared by the municipal clerk stating that the municipal official understands and
28 acknowledges that a nongovernmental entity on the list is not a governmental agency, has
29 no governmental authority and is a private organization that has as its mission or purpose
30 or as part of its activities the influencing of select boards, elected municipal officials or
31 municipal affairs. An executed form under this subsection must be kept as part of the
32 records of the select board.

33 **SUMMARY**

34 This bill requires nongovernmental agencies or organizations or other private entities
35 that have as their mission or purpose or as part of their activities the influencing of school
36 boards, select boards, school board directors, elected municipal officials or school board or
37 municipal affairs to register with the secretary of the school board or municipal clerk prior
38 to having contact with, submitting information to or engaging in an official capacity the
39 school board, select board, school board directors or elected municipal officials. School
40 board directors and elected municipal officials are required to sign forms acknowledging
41 that nongovernmental entities on the list are not governmental agencies, have no
42 governmental authority and are private entities that have as their mission or purpose or as

1 part of their activities the influencing of school boards, select boards, school board
2 directors, elected municipal officials or school board or municipal affairs.