

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 1592

S.P. 623

In Senate, April 11, 2023

**An Act to Amend the Law Governing Special Motions to Dismiss to
Include Workplace and Title IX Claims**

Reference to the Committee on Judiciary 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 CARNEY of Cumberland.
Cosponsored by Representative LEE of Auburn and
Senators: BAILEY of York, BRENNER of Cumberland, TIPPING of Penobscot,
Representatives: KUHN of Falmouth, MILLIKEN of Blue Hill, MOONEN of Portland,
RECKITT of South Portland.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 14 MRSA §556, 6th ¶**, as enacted by PL 1995, c. 413, §1, is amended to
3 read:

4 As used in this section, "a party's exercise of its right of petition" means any written or
5 oral statement made before or submitted to a legislative, executive or judicial body, or any
6 other governmental proceeding; any written or oral statement made in connection with an
7 issue under consideration or review by a legislative, executive or judicial body, or any other
8 governmental proceeding; any statement reasonably likely to encourage consideration or
9 review of an issue by a legislative, executive or judicial body, or any other governmental
10 proceeding; any statement reasonably likely to enlist public participation in an effort to
11 effect such consideration; any written or oral statement made in connection with a
12 discrimination complaint pursuant to the Maine Human Rights Act; any written or oral
13 statement made in connection with a complaint pursuant to Title 20-A, chapter 445 or the
14 so-called Title IX provisions of the federal Education Amendments of 1972, Public Law
15 92-318; or any other statement falling within constitutional protection of the right to
16 petition government.

17 **SUMMARY**

18 This bill amends the definition of "a party's exercise of its right of petition" in the law
19 governing special motions to dismiss by including statements made in connection with
20 complaints under the Maine Human Rights Act, the laws governing sexual violence,
21 intimate partner violence and stalking policies at institutions of higher education and the
22 so-called Title IX provisions of the federal Education Amendments of 1972.