

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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N I N E T Y - F O U R T H L E G I S L A T U R E

Legislative Document

No. 268

S. P. 205

In Senate, February 2, 1949.

Referred to Committee on Judiciary. Sent down for concurrence and ordered printed.

CHESTER T. WINSLOW, Secretary.

Presented by Senator Allen of Cumberland.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
FORTY-NINE

**AN ACT to Establish and Define the Civil Liability of Radio Broadcasters
Relative to Libel.**

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

R. S., c. 100, § 47-A, additional. Chapter 100 of the revised statutes is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to be numbered 47-A and to read as follows:

'Sec. 47-A. Civil liability of radio broadcasters for libel. The owner, licensee or operator of a visual or radio broadcasting station or network of stations, and the agents or employees of any such owner, licensee or operator, shall not be liable for any damages for any defamatory statement published or uttered in or as a part of a visual or sound radio broadcast unless it shall be alleged and proved by the complaining party that such owner, licensee or operator, or such agent or employee has failed to exercise due care to prevent the publication or utterance of such statement in such broadcast. In no event, however, shall any owner, licensee or operator, or the agents or employees of any such owner, licensee or operator of such a station or net work of stations be held liable for any damages for any defamatory statement uttered over the facilities of such station or network by or on behalf of any candidate for public office, or in discussion of any matter referred to referendum.'