

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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

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Legislative Document

No. 1284

H. P. 1134

House of Representatives, March 4, 1953

Referred to the Committee on Judiciary, sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Fuller of Bangor

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STATE OF MAINE

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
FIFTY-THREE

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**AN ACT Relating to Discrimination at Places of Public Resort or  
Amusement.**

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

**R. S., c. 124, § 44, amended.** Section 44 of chapter 124 of the revised statutes is hereby amended to read as follows:

**'Sec. 44. Discrimination by reason of race, color, religious creed, ancestry or national origin at places of public accommodation.** No person, being the owner, lessee, proprietor, manager, superintendent, agent or employee of any place of public accommodation, resort or amusement shall **directly or indirectly by himself or another, refuse, withhold from or deny to any person any of the accommodations, advantages, facilities or privileges thereof, or** directly or indirectly, by himself or another, publish, issue, circulate, distribute or display, in any way, any advertisement, circular, folder, **letter,** book, pamphlet, written or painted or printed notice or sign, of any kind or description, intended to discriminate against or actually discriminating against persons of any **race, color,** religious sect, creed, class, denomination, **ancestry** or ~~nationality~~ **national origin,** in the full enjoyment of the accommodations, advantages, facilities or privileges offered to the general public by such places of public accommodation, resort

or amusement. The production of any such advertisement, circular, folder, letter, book, pamphlet, written or painted or printed notice or sign, purporting to relate to any such place and to be made by any person being the owner, lessee, proprietor, manager or superintendent thereof, shall be presumptive evidence in any civil or criminal action that the same was authorized by such person.

A place of public accommodation, resort or amusement within the meaning of this section shall be deemed to include any inn, whether conducted for the entertainment, housing, or lodging of transient guests, or for the benefit, use or accommodation of those seeking health, recreation, or rest, any restaurant, eating house, public conveyance on land or water, bathhouse, barber shop, theatre, and music hall mean any establishment which caters or offers its services or goods to, or solicits patronage from members of the general public.

Nothing in this section contained shall be construed to prohibit the mailing of a private communication in writing, sent in response to a specific written inquiry.

Any person who shall violate any of the provisions of this section or who shall aid in or incite, cause or bring about, in whole or in part, the violation of the provisions of this section shall, for each and every violation, be liable to a penalty of not more than \$500, to be recovered in an action on the case by the person aggrieved thereby or by any resident of this state to whom such person shall assign his cause of action, in any court of competent jurisdiction in the county in which the plaintiff or the defendant shall reside; and any such person shall also for every such offense be punished by a fine of not more than ~~\$100~~ \$500, or by imprisonment for not more than 30 days, or by both such fine and imprisonment.'