



# 130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2021

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Legislative Document

No. 1462

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H.P. 1078

House of Representatives, April 12, 2021

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**An Act To Serve the Public Interest, Promote Journalism and Save  
Jobs by Restoring the Sales and Use Tax Exemption for Newspapers**

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Received by the Clerk of the House on April 8, 2021. Referred to the Committee on  
Taxation pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

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

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative BABBIDGE of Kennebunk.  
Cosponsored by Representatives: BERRY of Bowdoinham, BRYANT of Windham, OSHER  
of Orono, STEARNS of Guilford, WHITE of Waterville, Senator: DAUGHTRY of  
Cumberland.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 36 MRSA §1760, sub-§14-B** is enacted to read:

3 **14-B. Newspapers serving the public interest.** Beginning January 1, 2021, sales of  
4 newspapers serving the public interest.

5 As used in this subsection, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have  
6 the following meanings.

7 A. "Newspaper" means a publication on newsprint sold for a monetary fee that is  
8 published not less than every 2 weeks; and

9 B. "Serving the public interest" means:

10 (1) Providing information on the activities of state or local government, including,  
11 but not limited to, state agencies, town councils, municipal officers and school  
12 boards, and the elected or appointed officials of state or local government;

13 (2) Providing information on community affairs, including business, nonprofit and  
14 school activities; and

15 (3) Providing editorial commentary that invites divergent opinions to be published  
16 in a newspaper.

17 **SUMMARY**

18 This bill provides an exemption from the sales and use tax for newspapers serving the  
19 public interest, which are publications on newsprint, sold for money and published not less  
20 than once every 2 weeks, that provide news coverage on the activities of state and local  
21 governments and community affairs and that provide a format for editorial commentary.