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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ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative BABBIDGE of Kennebunk.
Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

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

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

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

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

B. "Serving the public interest" means:

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

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

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

SUMMARY

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