



# 132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2025

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Legislative Document

No. 1383

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H.P. 905

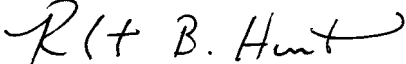
House of Representatives, April 1, 2025

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**An Act to Require State Divestment from Perpetrators of  
International Human Rights Violations**

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Reference to the Committee on State and Local Government suggested and ordered printed.

  
ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative MACIAS of Topsham.  
Cosponsored by Representatives: ABDI of Lewiston, DEBRITO of Waterville, DHALAC of  
South Portland, PUGH of Portland, RANA of Bangor, SATO of Gorham, YUSUF of Portland.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §1524** is enacted to read:

3 **§1524. State divestment from perpetrators of international human rights violations**

4 **1. Definitions.** As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the  
5 following terms have the following meanings.

6 A. "Crime of apartheid" has the same meaning as in the Rome Statute of the  
7 International Criminal Court, article 7, paragraph 2(h).

8 B. "Ethnic cleansing" means the systematic forced removal of an ethnic or religious  
9 group from a given territory by another ethnic or religious group, often with the intent  
10 to make the territory more ethnically or religiously homogeneous.

11 C. "Genocide" has the same meaning as in the Rome Statute of the International  
12 Criminal Court, article 6.

13 D. "Perpetrator state" means a state, country or governing body found by an  
14 independent and credible international body, including the United Nations,  
15 International Criminal Court or similar tribunal, to have committed the crime of  
16 apartheid, ethnic cleansing, genocide or a war crime.

17 E. "War crime" has the same meaning as in the Rome Statute of the International  
18 Criminal Court, article 8, paragraph 2.

19 **2. Prohibition on investments.** The State may not invest funds, including any public  
20 funds managed by the Maine Public Employees Retirement System under chapter 421, in  
21 or enter into a procurement contract with a company, entity, person or financial institution  
22 that operates in, directly benefits from or is associated with a perpetrator state. The State  
23 shall divest all assets from a company, entity, person or financial institution that operates  
24 in, directly benefits from or is associated with a perpetrator state within 12 months of the  
25 determination of the perpetrator state's status as a perpetrator state by an independent and  
26 credible international body.

27 **3. Monitoring and reporting.** The Office of the Treasurer of State, in collaboration  
28 with human rights experts and organizations, shall establish a commission to monitor  
29 international human rights reports and identify potential perpetrator states. By January 1st  
30 of each year, the Office of the Treasurer of State shall submit a report from the commission  
31 detailing the commission's activities and findings regarding compliance with this section  
32 to the Governor and the Legislature.

33 **4. Exceptions; waiver.** This section does not apply to an investment or procurement  
34 contract related to the provision of humanitarian aid, food, medicine or other essential  
35 supplies aimed at alleviating the suffering of a population. The Governor may issue a  
36 waiver of the provisions of subsection 2 related to an investment, procurement or  
37 divestment if the Governor determines that the waiver will prevent significant harm to the  
38 residents of this State or that the operation of this section will undermine national security  
39 interests.

40 **5. Legal challenges.** The court shall address a legal challenge to the operation of this  
41 section in an expedited manner.

