

130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 879

S.P. 293

In Senate, March 8, 2021

An Act Clarifying the Acceptance of Public Funding by Community Benefit Organizations

Reference to the Committee on Judiciary suggested and ordered printed.

DAREK M. GRANT Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator KEIM of Oxford.

1	Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:
2 3	Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §4553, sub-§10, ¶G, as amended by PL 2019, c. 464, §1, is further amended to read:
4 5 6 7	G. Discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodation, credit and educational opportunity on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity, except that a religious corporation, association or organization that does not receive public funds is exempt from this provision with respect to:
8 9	(1) Employment, as is more fully set forth in section 4553, subsection 4 and section 4573-A;
10	(2) Housing; and
11 12	(3) Educational opportunity, as is more fully set forth in section 4602, subsection 4.
13 14 15 16	Any for-profit organization owned, controlled or operated by a religious association or corporation and subject to the provisions of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 United States Code, Section 511(a) is not covered by the exemptions set forth in this paragraph.
17	SUMMARY
18 19 20 21 22	This bill amends the Maine Human Rights Act to ensure that religious corporations, associations and organizations, whether or not they receive public funds, are exempt from discrimination prohibitions on the basis of employment, housing and educational opportunity. Any for-profit organization owned, controlled or operated by a religious association or corporation remains subject to the discrimination prohibitions.