

PLEASE NOTE: Legislative Information **cannot** perform research, provide legal advice, or interpret Maine law. For legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.

## **An Act To Prohibit Public Endorsement of Candidates for Office by County Employees and Elected Officials**

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

**Sec. 1. 30-A MRSA §5-A** is enacted to read:

### **§ 5-A. Endorsement of candidates for political office**

A county officer or a county official may not advocate expressly for the election or defeat of a candidate for a federal or constitutional office or of a candidate for a partisan elective municipal, county or state office, including leadership positions in the Senate and the House of Representatives, or solicit contributions reportable under Title 21-A, chapter 13. For purposes of this section, "county officer" and "county official" do not include appointed county officers or appointed county officials.

**Sec. 2. 30-A MRSA §505** is enacted to read:

### **§ 505. Political activity**

**1. Political activity.** A county employee may not engage in political activity:

A. When the employee is on duty;

B. In county-owned or county-leased work space while the employee is occupied in the discharge of official duties or by using the facilities or services of the county; or

C. When wearing a uniform or official insignia identifying the office or position of the employee or while using a vehicle owned or leased by the county or its agencies.

As used in this subsection, "political activity" means to advocate expressly for the election or defeat of a candidate for a federal or constitutional office or of a candidate for partisan elective municipal, county or state office, including leadership positions in the Senate and the House of Representatives, or to solicit contributions reportable under Title 21-A, chapter 13.

## **SUMMARY**

This bill prohibits elected county officers, elected county officials and county employees from advocating expressly for the election or defeat of a candidate for a federal or constitutional office or of a candidate for partisan elective municipal, county or state office. The bill also prohibits elected county officers, elected county officials and county employees from soliciting contributions for a political campaign.