



125th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2011

Legislative Document

No. 243

H.P. 196

House of Representatives, February 1, 2011

An Act To Ensure Emergency Communications for Persons with Disabilities

Reference to the Committee on Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic Development suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Heather J.R. Priest".

HEATHER J.R. PRIEST
Clerk

Presented by Representative WEBSTER of Freeport.
Cosponsored by Senator THIBODEAU of Waldo and
Representatives: BEAVERS of South Berwick, DION of Portland, DUNPHY of Embden,
FITTS of Pittsfield, HINCK of Portland, LUCHINI of Ellsworth, Senators: BARTLETT of
Cumberland, GERZOFKY of Cumberland.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 26 MRSA §1419, sub-§1, ¶B-2**, as amended by PL 2003, c. 553, Pt. A,
3 §1, is further amended to read:

4 B-2. "Specialized customer communications equipment" means communications
5 equipment used by persons with disabilities to conduct telephone communications or
6 equipment that provides or assists in providing emergency alert notification to deaf
7 persons or hard-of-hearing persons. "Specialized customer communications
8 equipment" includes but is not limited to teletypewriters, artificial larynges, signaling
9 devices, amplified handsets, telecoil technology, large number dial overlays, direct
10 telephone dialing, fax machines, equipment necessary to use short message services
11 or text message services and other equipment used by persons with disabilities to
12 provide access to telephone networks and equipment that provides or facilitates
13 emergency alert notification to deaf persons or hard-of-hearing persons.

14 **SUMMARY**

15 This bill adds telecoil technology to the types of specialized customer
16 communications equipment that may be made available by the Department of Labor,
17 Bureau of Rehabilitation Services to low-income deaf, hard-of-hearing, late-deafened or
18 speech-impaired persons and persons with disabilities to provide or facilitate emergency
19 alert notifications.