



128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2017

Legislative Document

No. 1103

H.P. 777

House of Representatives, March 21, 2017

An Act To Require Correction of False Information Distributed in a Campaign

Reference to the Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative HARLOW of Portland.
Cosponsored by Representatives: BATTLE of South Portland, CAMPBELL of Orrington,
HAMANN of South Portland, HARRINGTON of Sanford, ORDWAY of Standish, STANLEY
of Medway.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA c. 13, sub-c. 6** is enacted to read:

3 **SUBCHAPTER 6**

4 **CAMPAIGN INFORMATION**

5 **§1111. False campaign information**

6 The commission, upon complaint made by a candidate for Governor, State Senate or
7 State House of Representatives, shall investigate an allegation that a person distributed
8 factually incorrect information about that candidate. If the commission determines that a
9 person distributed factually incorrect information about a candidate, the commission shall
10 impose a fine of \$10,000 on that person and that person shall distribute a correction of the
11 factually incorrect information in the same manner as the factually incorrect information
12 was distributed.

13 **SUMMARY**

14 This bill requires the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices,
15 upon complaint made by a candidate for Governor, State Senate or State House of
16 Representatives, to investigate an allegation that a person distributed factually incorrect
17 information about that candidate. If the commission determines that a person distributed
18 factually incorrect information about a candidate, the commission must impose a fine of
19 \$10,000 on that person and that person must distribute a correction of the factually
20 incorrect information in the same manner as the factually incorrect information was
21 distributed.