



127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2015

Legislative Document

No. 857

S.P. 301

In Senate, March 11, 2015

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

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading 'Heather J.R. Priest'.

HEATHER J.R. PRIEST
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator BAKER of Sagadahoc.
Cosponsored by Representative PIERCE of Dresden and
Senators: MASON of Androscoggin, ROSEN of Hancock, VOLK of Cumberland,
WOODSOME of York, Representative: HAWKE of Boothbay Harbor.

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

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

3 **§5-A. Endorsement of candidates for political office**

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

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

11 **§505. Political activity**

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

13 A. When the employee is on duty;

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

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

18 As used in this subsection, "political activity" means to advocate expressly for the
19 election or defeat of a candidate for a federal or constitutional office or of a candidate for
20 partisan elective municipal, county or state office, including leadership positions in the
21 Senate and the House of Representatives, or to solicit contributions reportable under Title
22 21-A, chapter 13.

23 **SUMMARY**

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