

CHAPTER 25**BRIBERY AND CORRUPT PRACTICES****§601. Scope of chapter**

Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to prohibit the giving or receiving of campaign contributions made for the purpose of defraying the costs of a political campaign. No person shall be convicted of an offense solely on the evidence that a campaign contribution was made, and that an appointment or nomination was subsequently made by the person to whose campaign or political party the contribution was made. [PL 1975, c. 499, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1975, c. 499, §1 (NEW).

§602. Bribery in official and political matters

1. A person is guilty of bribery in official and political matters if:

A. He promises, offers, or gives any pecuniary benefit to another with the intention of influencing the other's action, decision, opinion, recommendation, vote, nomination or other exercise of discretion as a public servant, party official or voter; [PL 1981, c. 349, §1 (AMD).]

B. Being a public servant, party official, candidate for electoral office or voter, he solicits, accepts or agrees to accept any pecuniary benefit from another knowing or believing the other's purpose to be as described in paragraph A, or fails to report to a law enforcement officer that he has been offered or promised a pecuniary benefit in violation of paragraph A; or [PL 1983, c. 583, §8 (AMD).]

C. That person promises, offers or gives any pecuniary benefit to another with the intention of obtaining the other's signature on an absentee ballot under Title 21-A, chapter 9, subchapter IV, or referendum petition under Title 21-A, chapter 11, or that person solicits, accepts or agrees to accept any pecuniary benefit from another knowing or believing the other's purpose is to obtain that person's signature on an absentee ballot or referendum petition, or fails to report to a law enforcement officer that the person has been offered or promised a pecuniary benefit in violation of this paragraph. [PL 1989, c. 502, Pt. A, §47 (AMD).]

[PL 1989, c. 502, Pt. A, §47 (AMD).]

2. As used in this section and other sections of this chapter, the following definitions apply.

A. A person is a "candidate for electoral office" upon his public announcement of his candidacy. [PL 1975, c. 499, §1 (NEW).]

B. "Party official" means any person holding any post in a political party whether by election, appointment or otherwise. [PL 1975, c. 499, §1 (NEW).]

C. "Pecuniary benefit" means any advantage in the form of money, property, commercial interest or anything else, the primary significance of which is economic gain; it does not include economic advantage applicable to the public generally, such as tax reduction or increased prosperity generally. "Pecuniary benefit" does not include the following:

(1) A meal, if the meal is provided by industry or special interest organizations as part of an informational program presented to a group of public servants;

(2) A meal, if the meal is a prayer breakfast or a meal served during a meeting to establish a prayer breakfast; or

(3) A subscription to a newspaper, news magazine or other news publication. [RR 1997, c. 1, §12 (COR).]
[RR 1997, c. 1, §12 (COR).]

3. Bribery in official and political matters is a Class C crime.
[PL 2001, c. 471, Pt. A, §22 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1975, c. 499, §1 (NEW). PL 1981, c. 349, §§1,2 (AMD). PL 1983, c. 583, §8 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 502, §A47 (AMD). PL 1993, c. 396, §1 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 33, §3 (AMD). RR 1997, c. 1, §12 (COR). PL 1997, c. 223, §1 (AMD). PL 2001, c. 471, §A22 (AMD).

§603. Improper influence

1. A person is guilty of improper influence if he:

A. Threatens any harm to a public servant, party official or voter with the purpose of influencing his action, decision, opinion, recommendation, nomination, vote or other exercise of discretion; [PL 1975, c. 499, §1 (NEW).]

B. Privately addresses to any public servant who has or will have an official discretion in a judicial or administrative proceeding any representation, argument or other communication with the intention of influencing that discretion on the basis of considerations other than those authorized by law; or [PL 1975, c. 499, §1 (NEW).]

C. Being a public servant or party official, fails to report to a law enforcement officer conduct designed to influence him in violation of paragraphs A or B. [PL 1975, c. 499, §1 (NEW).]
[PL 1975, c. 499, §1 (NEW).]

2. "Harm" means any disadvantage or injury, pecuniary or otherwise, including disadvantage or injury to any other person or entity in whose welfare the public servant, party official or voter is interested.
[PL 1975, c. 499, §1 (NEW).]

3. Improper influence is a Class D crime.
[PL 1975, c. 499, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1975, c. 499, §1 (NEW).

§604. Improper compensation for past action

1. A person is guilty of improper compensation for past action if:

A. Being a public servant, he solicits, accepts or agrees to accept any pecuniary benefit in return for having given a decision, opinion, recommendation, nomination, vote, otherwise exercised his discretion, or for having violated his duty; or [PL 1975, c. 499, §1 (NEW).]

B. He promises, offers or gives any pecuniary benefit, acceptance of which would be a violation of paragraph A. [PL 1975, c. 499, §1 (NEW).]
[PL 1975, c. 499, §1 (NEW).]

2. Improper compensation for past action is a Class D crime.
[PL 1975, c. 499, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1975, c. 499, §1 (NEW).

§605. Improper gifts to public servants

1. A person is guilty of improper gifts to public servants if:

A. Being a public servant that person solicits, accepts or agrees to accept any pecuniary benefit from a person if the public servant knows or reasonably should know that the purpose of the donor in making the gift is to influence the public servant in the performance of the public servant's official duties or vote, or is intended as a reward for action on the part of the public servant; or [PL 1999, c. 149, §1 (AMD).]

B. He knowingly gives, offers, or promises any pecuniary benefit prohibited by paragraph A. [PL 1975, c. 499, §1 (NEW).]
[PL 1999, c. 149, §1 (AMD).]

2. Improper gifts to public servants is a Class E crime.

[PL 1975, c. 499, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1975, c. 499, §1 (NEW). PL 1999, c. 149, §1 (AMD).

§606. Improper compensation for services

1. A person is guilty of improper compensation for services if:

A. Being a public servant, he solicits, accepts or agrees to accept any pecuniary benefit in return for advice or other assistance in preparing or promoting a bill, contract, claim or other transaction or proposal as to which he knows that he has or is likely to have an official discretion to exercise; or [PL 1975, c. 499, §1 (NEW).]

B. He gives, offers or promises any pecuniary benefit, knowing that it is prohibited by paragraph

A. [PL 1975, c. 499, §1 (NEW).]

[PL 1975, c. 499, §1 (NEW).]

2. Improper compensation for services is a Class E crime.

[PL 1975, c. 499, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1975, c. 499, §1 (NEW).

§607. Purchase of public office

1. A person is guilty of purchase of public office if:

A. He solicits, accepts or agrees to accept, for himself, another person, or a political party, money or any other pecuniary benefit as compensation for his endorsement, nomination, appointment, approval or disapproval of any person for a position as a public servant or for the advancement of any public servant; or [PL 1975, c. 499, §1 (NEW).]

B. He knowingly gives, offers or promises any pecuniary benefit prohibited by paragraph A. [PL 1975, c. 499, §1 (NEW).]

[PL 1975, c. 499, §1 (NEW).]

2. Purchase of public office is a Class D crime.

[PL 1975, c. 499, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1975, c. 499, §1 (NEW).

§608. Official oppression

1. A person is guilty of official oppression if, being a public servant and acting with the intention to benefit himself or another or to harm another, he knowingly commits an unauthorized act which

purports to be an act of his office, or knowingly refrains from performing a duty imposed on him by law or clearly inherent in the nature of his office.

[PL 1975, c. 499, §1 (NEW).]

2. Official oppression is a Class E crime.

[PL 1975, c. 499, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1975, c. 499, §1 (NEW).

§609. Misuse of information

1. A person is guilty of misuse of information if, being a public servant and knowing that official action is contemplated, or acting in reliance on information which he has acquired by virtue of his office or from another public servant, he:

A. Acquires or divests himself of a pecuniary interest in any property, transaction or enterprise that may be affected by such official action or information; [RR 2013, c. 2, §31 (COR).]

B. Speculates or wagers on the basis of such official action or information; or [PL 1975, c. 499, §1 (NEW).]

C. Knowingly aids another to do any of the things described in paragraphs A and B. [PL 1975, c. 499, §1 (NEW).]

[RR 2013, c. 2, §31 (COR).]

2. Misuse of information is a Class E crime.

[PL 1975, c. 499, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1975, c. 499, §1 (NEW). RR 2013, c. 2, §31 (COR).

The State of Maine claims a copyright in its codified statutes. If you intend to republish this material, we require that you include the following disclaimer in your publication:

All copyrights and other rights to statutory text are reserved by the State of Maine. The text included in this publication reflects changes made through the First Regular and First Special Session of the 131st Maine Legislature and is current through November 1, 2023. The text is subject to change without notice. It is a version that has not been officially certified by the Secretary of State. Refer to the Maine Revised Statutes Annotated and supplements for certified text.

The Office of the Revisor of Statutes also requests that you send us one copy of any statutory publication you may produce. Our goal is not to restrict publishing activity, but to keep track of who is publishing what, to identify any needless duplication and to preserve the State's copyright rights.

PLEASE NOTE: The Revisor's Office cannot perform research for or provide legal advice or interpretation of Maine law to the public. If you need legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.