



129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2019

Legislative Document

No. 481

S.P. 146

In Senate, January 31, 2019

**An Act To Allow the Expansion of the Types of Newspapers That
Qualify as Legal Notice Publishers by Removing the 2nd Class
Postal Matter Requirement**

Reference to the Committee on State and Local Government suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator MIRAMANT of Knox.
Cosponsored by Representative MATLACK of St. George and
Senators: CARPENTER of Aroostook, DIAMOND of Cumberland, GRATWICK of
Penobscot, LIBBY of Androscoggin, Representatives: BEEBE-CENTER of Rockland,
EVANGELOS of Friendship, RISEMAN of Harrison, RYKERSON of Kittery.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 1 MRSA §601, first ¶**, as amended by PL 2013, c. 368, Pt. YYYY, §1, is
3 further amended to read:

4 To be qualified as a medium for the publication of legal notices, legal advertising and
5 other matter required by law to be published in a newspaper, a newspaper, unless
6 otherwise ordered by the court in the proceedings, must be printed in the English
7 language; ~~must be entered as 2nd class postal matter in the United States mails;~~ and must
8 have general circulation in the vicinity where the notice is required to be published. Any
9 legal notice, legal advertising or other matter required by law to be published in a
10 newspaper must appear in all editions of that newspaper and must appear on any publicly
11 accessible website that the newspaper maintains in accordance with the requirements of
12 section 603.

13 **Sec. 2. 1 MRSA §602**, as corrected by RR 1997, c. 2, §2, is amended to read:

14 **§602. Additional media for publication of notices**

15 Notwithstanding section 601, all probate notices, notices of foreclosure, other legal
16 notices, legal advertising and other matter required by law to be published in a newspaper
17 that have been published in the Coastal Journal from the date of its first publication on
18 November 3, 1966 and in the Somerset Gazette from the date of its first publication on
19 April 16, 1990 to June 2, 1993, and that would have been valid but for ~~the~~ a former
20 provision of section 601 effective at any point from November 3, 1966 to the general
21 effective date for nonemergency laws passed during the First Regular Session of the
22 129th Legislature that requires required a newspaper carrying such notices to be entered
23 as 2nd class postal matter, are declared to be valid.

24 **SUMMARY**

25 This bill removes from the law governing publication of legal notices the requirement
26 that, in order for a newspaper to publish notices, it must be entered as 2nd class postal
27 matter in the United States mails.