



# 126th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2014

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Legislative Document

No. 1834

S.P. 737

In Senate, March 19, 2014

**An Act To Require the Commission on Governmental Ethics and  
Election Practices To Make Public Declarations following a  
Determination of a Campaign Statement's Falsity**

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Reference to the Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs 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 THOMAS of Somerset. (GOVERNOR'S BILL)

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 STATEMENTS**

5 **§1111. False campaign statements**

6 **1. Commission to investigate.** The commission, upon complaint made by a  
7 candidate for Governor, State House of Representatives or State Senate, shall investigate  
8 the following acts by a candidate for Governor, State House of Representatives or State  
9 Senate, candidate's campaign, political party or political action committee:

10 A. Using the title of an office not currently held by a candidate in a manner that  
11 implies that the candidate does currently hold that office or using the term "reelect"  
12 when the candidate has never been elected at a primary, general or special election to  
13 the office for which that candidate is a candidate;

14 B. Making a false statement concerning the formal schooling or training completed  
15 or attempted by a candidate; a degree, diploma, certificate, scholarship, grant, award,  
16 prize or honor received, earned or held by a candidate; or the period of time during  
17 which a candidate attended any school, college, community college, technical school  
18 or institution;

19 C. Making a false statement concerning a professional, occupational or vocational  
20 license held by a candidate or concerning any position the candidate held for which  
21 the candidate received a salary or wages;

22 D. Making a false statement regarding a candidate's or public official's indictment for  
23 or conviction of a theft offense, extortion or other crime involving financial  
24 corruption or moral turpitude;

25 E. Making a false statement regarding a candidate's or public official's record of  
26 treatment or confinement for a mental disorder;

27 F. Making a false statement regarding a candidate's or public official's military  
28 discipline for criminal misconduct or dishonorable discharge from the armed  
29 services;

30 G. Falsely identifying the source of a statement, issuing statements under the name  
31 of another person without authorization or falsely stating the endorsement of or  
32 opposition to a candidate by a person or publication;

33 H. Making a false statement concerning the voting record of a candidate or public  
34 official; and

35 I. Posting, publishing, circulating, distributing or otherwise disseminating a false  
36 statement concerning a candidate, either knowing the statement to be false or with  
37 reckless disregard of whether it was false or not, if the statement is designed to  
38 promote the election, nomination or defeat of the candidate.

