



132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 732

H.P. 474

House of Representatives, February 25, 2025

An Act to Prohibit Copyrights for Works of State Government

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Robert B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative POIRIER of Skowhegan.

Cosponsored by Representatives: DUCHARME of Madison, GRIFFIN of Levant, MORRIS of Turner, QUINT of Hodgdon.

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

Sec. 1. 1 MRSA §30 is enacted to read:

§30. Copyright for works of State prohibited

Works of the State may not be afforded copyright protection, including under 17 United States Code or any subsequent federal law. This section does not apply to merchandise sold by a department or agency and does not preclude the State from receiving and holding a copyright transferred to the State by assignment, bequest or otherwise or a copyright of a work of the State existing prior to the effective date of this section.

Sec. 2. 27 MRSA §85-A, sub-§9, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 465, §2, is amended to read:

9. Research and publications. To carry on research to increase knowledge in the several fields of museum activity and to provide interpretive and information services, including the dissemination and recording of information gathered through research. ~~Protection through copyright law may be obtained;~~

SUMMARY

This bill prohibits the use of copyright protection for any work of the State except for merchandise sold by a department or agency. This bill does not preclude the State from receiving and holding a copyright transferred to the State by assignment, bequest or otherwise or a copyright of a work of the State existing prior to the effective date of this legislation.