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**Public Law**  
124th Legislature  
First Regular Session

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**Chapter 208**  
**S.P. 365 - L.D. 982**

**An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Legislative Ethics**

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

**Sec. 1. 1 MRSA §1009**, as enacted by PL 2005, c. 301, §2, is amended to read:

**§ 1009. Recommendations to Legislature**

Following a general election, the commission may solicit suggestions for improving campaign financing and reporting and the administration of the other areas within the commission's jurisdiction. The commission shall review the suggestions and may submit legislation within 90 days of the general election based on those suggestions or on proposals by individual members of the commission or its staff.

**Sec. 2. 1 MRSA §1012, sub-§2-A** is enacted to read:

**2-A. Domestic partner.** "Domestic partner" means the partner of a Legislator who:

A. Has been legally domiciled with the Legislator for at least 12 months;

B. Is not legally married to or legally separated from an individual;

C. Is the sole partner of the Legislator and expects to remain so; and

D. Is jointly responsible with the Legislator for each other's common welfare as evidenced by joint living arrangements, joint financial arrangements or joint ownership of real or personal property.

**Sec. 3. 1 MRSA §1012, sub-§6**, as enacted by PL 1989, c. 561, §4, is amended to read:

**6. Immediate family.** "Immediate family" means a Legislator's spouse, domestic partner or dependent children.

**Sec. 4. 1 MRSA §1012, sub-§8**, as enacted by PL 1989, c. 561, §4, is amended to read:

**8. Relative.** "Relative" means an individual who is related to the Legislator or the Legislator's spouse as father, mother, son, daughter, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, great aunt, great uncle, first cousin, nephew, niece, husband, wife, domestic partner, grandfather, grandmother, grandson, granddaughter, father-in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, stepfather, stepmother, stepson, stepdaughter, stepbrother, stepsister, half brother or half sister, and ~~shall be deemed to include~~ includes the fiance or fiancée of the Legislator.

Effective September 12, 2009