



Civil Rights and Ending Discrimination

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Highlights of Legislative Achievements 1978-Present

- 1981 Legislation to ban discrimination based on sexual orientation advanced.**
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- 1983 Maine Education Equity Act enacted.**
Maine Women's Lobby won State enforcement of Title XI Regulations through the Maine Human Rights Commission.
- 1991 Passage of An Act to Prohibit Educational Discrimination.**
Maine Women's Lobby led effort to correct an omission in the Maine Human Rights Act to prohibit discrimination in education by adding race as a protected category.
- 2000 Passage of An Act Concerning Offensive Names.**
The Maine Women's Lobby supported efforts by Native American women to pass legislation adding the word "squaw" to the list of offensive names prohibited by the State to designate place names.
- 2004 Domestic partners inheritance bill provides family security.**
The law extended inheritance rights, next-of-kin status, victim's compensation, and guardian and conservator rights to domestic partners in Maine through a statewide domestic partnership registry.
- 2005 Passage of anti-discrimination bill.**
The Maine Women's Lobby worked with allies to successfully pass a law prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in housing, credit, education, and employment, and to win passage of this referendum at the polls.
- 2007 Maine's Family Medical Leave Law expanded to include domestic partners.**
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2009 Maine's civil marriage laws are amended to allow same-sex couples to legally marry.

As part of the Maine Freedom to Marry Coalition, the Maine Women's Lobby lobbied to repeal current language excluding same-sex couples from civil marriage. As a result, Maine became the first state to pass marriage equality through the legislature and have the bill signed into law by the Governor.

2009 Maine's offensive place name statute strengthened.

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