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Archives

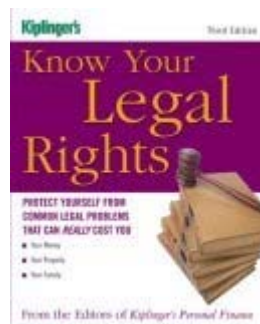
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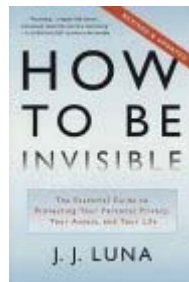
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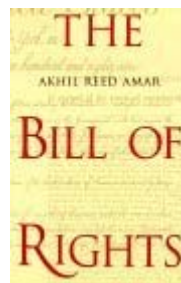
Lawbean recommends:



Protect yourself from common legal problems that can really cost you



Essential privacy advice for the average person



The Bill of Rights explained



Extra dark, organic, fair trade certified whole **bean** coffee.

[Maine Becomes the First State to Pass Internet Neutrality Legislation](#)

Posted on June 16, 2007 in [your rights](#), [laws, bills, and policy](#) by bean

Maine has become the first state in the union to pass legislation on net neutrality. The resolution, LD 1675, recognizes the importance of “full, fair and non-discriminatory access to the Internet” and instructs the Public Advocate to study what can be done to protect the rights of Maine internet users.

Small business owners and members of the technology industry say net neutrality is good for Maine business because it allows small businesses to compete online with large corporations. Having net neutrality principles in place would make Maine an attractive place to launch tech industry start-ups. As a result of a 2005 decision by the Federal Communications Commission, net neutrality principles, which had been in place since the inception of the internet, were put in jeopardy. Following that decision, Maine Senator Olympia Snowe proposed legislation to reinstate net neutrality at the federal level. Maine’s resolution emphasizes the importance of net neutrality to Snowe’s home state and could provide the impetus for her to refocus attention on the issue.

Lawmakers and consumer advocacy groups had nothing but good things to say about the resolution:

“Maine is the first state in the nation to stand up for its citizens’ rights to a nondiscriminatory internet,” said Senator Ethan Strimling, the original sponsor of LD 1675. “The rest of the nation should follow suit and study what can be done to protect net neutrality.”

Shenna Bellows, Executive Director of the Maine Civil Liberties Union said, “Maine is once again leading the way in protecting the rights of its citizens. This resolution will help re-establish the internet as the free and open arena of democracy it was always intended to be.”

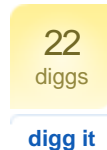
Tony Vigue of the Community Television Association of Maine said, “This important legislation puts Maine first in affirming that Internet providers should not be allowed to discriminate by speeding up or slowing down Web content based on its source, ownership or destination.”

“With a free and open internet young people are able to start businesses that compete in the global marketplace from their homes in Maine,” said Brian Hiatt, Maine Director of Communications and Online Organizing for The League of Young Voters. “Net Neutrality levels the playing field for Mainers.”

Save the Internet [explains](#) Net Neutrality:

Network Neutrality — or “Net Neutrality” for short — is the guiding principle that preserves the free and open Internet. Put simply, Net Neutrality means no discrimination. Net Neutrality prevents Internet providers from speeding up or slowing down Web content based on its source, ownership or destination. Net Neutrality is the reason why the Internet has driven economic innovation, democratic participation, and free speech online. It protects the consumer’s right to use any equipment, content, application or service on a non-discriminatory basis without interference from the network provider. With Net Neutrality, the network’s only job is to move data — not choose which data to privilege with higher quality service.

You can [read the resolution](#) on Maine’s legislature website. You can read more about this at [Maine Today](#).



7 Responses to “Maine Becomes the First State to Pass Internet Neutrality Legislation”

1. on 16 Jun 2007 at 10:11 pm [1Net Neutrality Still Under Assault » Free UTOPIA!](#)

[...] full articles here, here, here, here, and here.) Share and Enjoy: These icons link to social bookmarking sites where readers can share and [...]

2. on 16 Jun 2007 at 10:22 pm [2frank carreiro](#)

I’m pleased to see Maine realize the importance of net neutrality. We cannot allow companies to dictate where we go and how fast a web site will load up. Companies such as google (for example) are paying their way and are not getting something for free as it was explained to me in an online conversation with one company CSR.

We also cannot trust these companies to do what’s best for their customers. Comcast for instance is disconnecting people all the time for violating a “fuzzy acceptable use” policy which they will not divulge. Oh sure it’s online but when asked why you were disconnected they say you violated acceptable use. When asked what they means they say you downloaded too much. (Yeah, it used to be unlimited use for a flat monthly fee.. not anymore). Downloaded too much? How much is too much? “I’m sorry but I cannot divulge that to customers”. Yeah right. What a crock.

Trust the company to do what’s right? I don’t think so.

<http://comcastissue.blogspot.com>

Fight the battle and spread the word. We need to keep the Internet free for everyone!

3. on 17 Jun 2007 at 12:09 am [3Maine: First State to Passe Net Neutrality Legislation | The Head-On Radio Network America's Liberal Voice!](#)

[...] LawBean: Maine has become the first state in the union to pass legislation on net neutrality. The [...]

4. on 17 Jun 2007 at 12:54 am [4Lassie](#)

2 In order to reach this “total net neutrality” of wich you speak repulsion of capitalism is ofcourse mandatory, is it not? the net is based on freedom but it must be clear to be not freedom of market, but rather freedom of mind!

5. on 17 Jun 2007 at 7:03 am [5Maine Becomes the First State to Pass Internet Neutrality Legislation at Imaging Insider](#)

[...] Read More... [...]

6. on 17 Jun 2007 at 9:18 am [6Tainted Kernel » Lucky Maine!!!](#)

[...] is the first state to pass a net neutrality act. It is about time. Hopefully the rest of the states, including Illinois, will follow [...]

7. on 17 Jun 2007 at 12:26 pm [7Dean Collins](#)

I couldn't see if there was a definition of which networks 'have' to allow neutrality.

Does this mean cable providers cant restrict what type of traffic you generate/download on your network?

eg can you now run servers from your consumer cable connection?

What does this mean to mobile phone providers, can they no longer stop you using low cost voip provicers like Truphone (which T-mobile have blocked?)

Cheers,
Dean Collins
www.cognition.net

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