

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE - HUNDRETH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 978

H. P. 700

House of Representatives, January 26, 1961

Referred to Committee on Public Utilities. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Waterman of Auburn.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SIXTY-ONE

AN ACT Regulating Emergency Calls on Party Lines.

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

R. S., c. 131, §§ 36-A - 36-D, additional. Chapter 131 of the Revised Statutes, as amended, is further amended by adding 4 new sections to be numbered 36-A to 36-D, to read as follows:

'Emergency Use of Party Lines.

Sec. 36-A. Definitions. As used in sections 36-A to 36-C, the following words shall have the following meanings:

I. Party line. "Party line" means a subscribers' line telephone circuit, consisting of 2 or more main telephone stations connected therewith, each station with a distinctive ring or telephone number.

II. Emergency. "Emergency" means a situation in which property or human life is in jeopardy and the prompt summoning of aid is essential.

Sec. 36-B. Refusal to surrender party line prohibited. A person shall not wilfully refuse to surrender the use of a party line to another person for the purpose of permitting such other person to report a fire or summon police, medical or other aid in case of emergency.

A person shall not request the use of a party line on pretext that an emergency exists, knowing that an emergency does not exist.

Sec. 36-C. Notice printed in telephone directories. Every telephone directory distributed to the members of the general public shall contain a copy of this

law, printed in type which is no smaller than 8 point type and is headed by the word "warning" in larger and bold faced type. This section does not apply to directories published solely for business purposes, commonly known as classified directories.

Sec. 36-D. Penalty for violation. Whoever violates sections 36-A to 36-C shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$300 or by imprisonment for not more than one month, or by both.'