

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST SPECIAL SESSION
(EMERGENCY)

ONE HUNDRED AND FIRST LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1635

S. P. 672

In Senate, January 6, 1964

The Committee on Judiciary suggested.

CHESTER T. WINSLOW, Secretary

Presented by Senator Farris of Kennebec.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SIXTY-FOUR

**AN ACT Relating to False Alarms and Reports Made to Municipal, County
and State Departments.**

Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, under the present statutes there is no law governing false reports and alarms to state and county law enforcement departments; and

Whereas, such false reports and alarms have been made to such departments without such departments having authority to act; and

Whereas, such false reports and alarms are dangerous to the welfare and public safety of the people of Maine; and

Whereas, the following legislation is vitally necessary to prevent such false reports and alarms; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

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

R. S., c. 136, § 16, repealed and replaced. Section 16 of chapter 136 of the Revised Statutes, as amended by section 217 of chapter 402 of the public laws of 1963, is repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:

'Sec. 16. False alarms and reports to municipal, county and state departments. Whoever calls out or makes a false report to any fire department, police department, State Police Department, sheriff's department or any state law enforcement agency or other municipal department or state department, or any portion or persons thereof, by intentionally giving a false alarm, call or report to such department, or to any officer, member or employee thereof by any means whatsoever or knowingly and willfully causes to be given by any means whatsoever, any such false alarm, call or report, when such offense is of a high and aggravated nature, shall be deemed guilty of a felony and on conviction thereof shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$500 or by imprisonment for not more than 2 years; but when such offense is not of a high and aggravated nature, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction thereof shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$100 or by imprisonment for not more than 11 months.'

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this act shall take effect when approved.