

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

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ONE HUNDRED AND NINTH LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 11

H. P. 5

Office of the Clerk of the House

Filed December 5, 1978, pursuant to Joint Rule 21 of the 108th Legislature, by Mr. Dexter of Kingfield with cosponsor Mr. Rollins of Dixfield. Printed pursuant to same Joint Rule.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Dexter of Kingfield.

Cosponsor: Mr. Rollins of Dixfield.

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STATE OF MAINE

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-NINE

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**AN ACT to Prohibit Smoking at Public Meetings.**

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

22 MRSA § 1578 is enacted to read:

**§ 1578. Smoking at public proceedings prohibited**

**No person shall smoke tobacco or any other substance in any form in any public proceedings, as defined in Title 1, section 402, subsection 2, which are held inside. Violation of this section shall be a civil violation for which a forfeiture of not more than \$50 may be adjudged.**

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to prohibit smoking at public meetings. Studies by the Surgeon General of the United States, university research centers and organizations such as the American Lung Association, the American Heart Association and the American Cancer Society have determined the serious health problems of nonsmokers caused by others smoking tobacco in their presence.

Many people, because of health reasons, cannot attend public meetings where smoking is allowed.

Smoking also poses a fire hazard, increases building upkeep and maintenance costs and creates an unnecessary demand for energy for ventilation purposes.

This bill will allow more people the opportunity to attend public meetings.

Also, the bill identifies the sites at which smoking shall be prohibited. It prohibits smoking at all public proceedings as defined in the Freedom of Access Law.