MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND NINTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 982

H. P. 782

House of Representatives, March 5, 1979 On Motion of Mr. Howe of South Portland, referred to the Committee on Business Legislation. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Howe of South Portland.

Cosponsor: Mr. Wood of Sanford.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED SEVENTY-NINE

AN ACT to Permit Certain Private Actions under the Profiteering Statutes.

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

10 MRSA § 1104, as repealed and replaced by PL 1977, c. 175, § 3, is amended to read:

§ 1104. Right of action and damage

Any person, including the State or any political subdivision thereof, injured in its business or property by any other person or corporation by reason of anything forbidden or declared to be unlawful by sections 1101 and, 1102, 1105 and 1106, may sue therefor in a civil action and shall recover threefold the damages sustained and costs of suit, including necessary and reasonable investigative costs, reasonable expert's fees and a reasonable attorney fee.

STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill creates a private right to file suit for an individual who is injured as a result of the illegal profiteering in "necessities of life" such as food, fuel or rental properties.

This bill does not expand the definition of illegal profiteering, but it permits suits which are presently limited to the office of the Attorney General.