

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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118th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1997

Legislative Document

No. 615

H.P. 452

House of Representatives, January 30, 1997

An Act Concerning the Removal of Campaign Signs.

Reference to the Committee on Legal and Veterans Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph W. Mayo".

JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative AHEARNE of Madawaska.

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

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Sec. 1. 23 MRSA §1920, as repealed and replaced by PL 1981, c. 318, §4, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

§1920. Penalty

A person, firm, corporation or other legal entity who erects, maintains or displays a sign in violation of this chapter or in violation of the rules adopted by the commissioner pursuant to this chapter, is subject to a fine of not more than \$100 together with the cost of removal of the signs, except in the case of a violation of section 1913-A, subsection 1, paragraph H for which the candidate or the political committee of the candidate, as filed with the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices pursuant to Title 21-A, chapter 13, is subject to a forfeiture of not more than \$500 nor less than \$200. The unlawful maintenance or display of each sign or advertising structure for any one day constitutes a separate offense.

In addition to other penalties, the commissioner may institute in the name of the State any appropriate action, injunction or other proceeding to prevent, restrain, correct or abate any violation of this chapter or any orders or rules issued or adopted pursuant to this chapter.

SUMMARY

This bill increases the amount of the forfeiture from \$100 to a minimum of \$200 and a maximum of \$500 that may be levied for political signs that are erected more than 6 weeks prior to an election or that are not taken down within a week after the election. The candidate or the candidate's political committee is required to pay the penalty.