

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2025

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Legislative Document

No. 1179

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H.P. 784

House of Representatives, March 20, 2025

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**An Act to Establish Minimum Safety Standards for the  
Construction and Use of Temporary Emergency Shelters**

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Reference to the Committee on Housing and Economic Development suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative MACIAS of Topsham.  
Cosponsored by Representatives: ARCHER of Saco, ARFORD of Brunswick, WEBB of Durham.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 25 MRSA §2452, first ¶**, as repealed and replaced by PL 2011, c. 691, Pt.  
3 A, §25, is amended to read:

4 The Commissioner of Public Safety shall adopt and may amend rules governing the  
5 safety to life from fire in or around all buildings or other structures, including temporary  
6 emergency shelters, and mass outdoor gatherings, as defined in Title 22, section 1601,  
7 subsection 2, within the commissioner's jurisdiction. Automatic sprinkler systems may not  
8 be required in existing noncommercial places of assembly. Noncommercial places of  
9 assembly include those facilities used for such purposes as deliberation, worship,  
10 entertainment, amusement or awaiting transportation that have a capacity of 100 to 300  
11 persons. Automatic sprinkler systems may not be required in existing commercial places  
12 of assembly that are open for no more than 50 days per calendar year. "Commercial places  
13 of assembly" includes bars with live entertainment, dance halls, nightclubs, assembly halls  
14 with large open areas in which patrons stand or sit, commonly referred to as "festival  
15 seating," and restaurants. For the purposes of this section, "temporary emergency shelter"  
16 means a structure or mobile unit designed for short-term habitation during an emergency  
17 and includes, but is not limited to, mobile homes, modular units and other nonpermanent  
18 structures. Rules adopted pursuant to this section are routine technical rules, except that  
19 rules pertaining to fire sprinklers are major substantive rules, both of which are defined in  
20 Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

21 **Sec. 2. Rules for temporary emergency shelters.** In consultation with the  
22 Technical Building Codes and Standards Board established pursuant to the Maine Revised  
23 Statutes, Title 10, section 9722, the Commissioner of Public Safety shall adopt rules  
24 governing life and fire safety and other safety protections for temporary emergency shelters  
25 pursuant to Title 25, section 2452. The rules must include, but are not limited to:

- 26 1. Fire code standards for the design and construction of temporary emergency  
27 shelters, including ventilation requirements, electrical safety and emergency exits;
- 28 2. Required fire prevention equipment such as smoke and carbon monoxide detectors;  
29 and
- 30 3. Standard tenant fire safety rules regulating the use of open flames.

31 **SUMMARY**

32 This bill requires the Commissioner of Public Safety, in consultation with the  
33 Department of Public Safety, Office of the State Fire Marshal, Technical Building Codes  
34 and Standards Board, to establish rules governing life and fire safety for temporary  
35 emergency shelters.