

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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N I N E T Y - F O U R T H   L E G I S L A T U R E

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Legislative Document

No. 1241

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S. P. 578

In Senate, March 3, 1949.

Referred to Committee on Legal Affairs. Sent down for concurrence and ordered printed.

CHESTER T. WINSLOW, Secretary.

Presented by Senator Sleeper of Knox.

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STATE OF MAINE

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
FORTY-NINE

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**AN ACT Relating to Fire Escapes on Buildings.**

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

**R. S., c. 85, § 46, repealed and replaced.** Section 46 of chapter 85 of the revised statutes, as repealed and replaced by chapter 271 of the public laws of 1947, is hereby repealed and replaced and the following enacted in place thereof:

‘Sec. 46. Fire escapes for certain buildings; order of commissioner; appeal. Every public building used as a school house, orphan asylum, insane asylum, reformatory, opera house, hotel, boarding or lodging house, hospital, convalescent home, boarding home, tenement or apartment house, and every public building in which any trade, manufacture, business or public assembly is carried on, in which there is only one stairway or one means of egress from any story which is more than 6 feet above grade, shall be provided with more than one way of egress, from each of such stories used for the above mentioned purposes, either by stairways on the inside or fire escapes on the outside or a combination of such means of escape or an approved fire tower. These means of egress shall be in such a number or such size and in such a location as to give reasonably safe, adequate and convenient means of exit for the use of all persons which may be accommo-

dated, assembled, employed, lodged or resident therein. These egresses and means of escape shall be kept unobstructed, in good repair and ready for use at all times. No individual, partnership or corporation shall offer for sale in this state any type of fire escape, device or fire alarm system unless first securing the approval of the insurance commissioner or fire inspector. If, after careful inspection of the premises mentioned herein, either the insurance commissioner or his deputy shall be apprehensive that the owner or occupant of the building in question has failed to comply with the provisions of this section, he shall direct the owner or occupant to make such alterations and repairs as he deems necessary and shall give such owner a reasonable time in which to comply with such order. He may if he feels that the public safety is in immediate danger forbid the use of such building for any public purpose until satisfactory compliance with his order.

Any person or corporation aggrieved by any order or decision of the commissioner issued under this section may obtain a review of such order by filing in superior court of Kennebec county within 30 days from the date of such order a written petition praying that the order of the commissioner be set aside. Unless the order of the commissioner shall otherwise specify, any order issued by him shall become immediately effective and the filing of a petition for review shall not operate as a stay thereof.'