

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & INSTITUTIONAL SERVICES

111th Legislature, First Regular Session

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<u>LD</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>SPONSOR</u>	<u>DISPOSITION</u>
43	AN ACT TO CLARIFY THE 'HEARING EAR' DOG LAW	Sen. Hichens	OTP-A HSE-ENACT. SEN-ENACT. GOV-SIGNED PL 83, c. 41

**SUMMARY:** Legislation during the last session had made drivers liable for injuries to hearing-impaired persons. This bill made operators of motor vehicles liable for injuries to a hearing-ear guide dog.

Through the Committee Amendment (S-8), the previous legislation was also amended to define more precisely the color of the dog's collar and leash.

<b>174</b>	AN ACT TO PROHIBIT SMOKING IN FOOD STORES AND PORTIONS OF RESTAURANTS	Sen. Twitchell	MAJ-OTP-ND LD 1591 MIN-OTP-ND LD 1592 MIN-ONTP
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**SUMMARY:** The bill banned smoking in all sections of food stores and restaurants, except designated areas where smoking was permitted. It also established conditions for the designated smoking areas, requiring barriers, space, ventilation or air quality standards.

The ban on smoking did not apply if the restaurant served fewer than 50 persons, or if a private function were being held there. Retail stores were exempt if the public area was less than 5,000 square feet.

Proprietors and employers would be responsible for enforcement, including posting signs, and making sure that the no-smoking area was at least 25% of the total area, and at least as attractive and convenient as the designated smoking area.

Conditions for a waiver, which could be obtained from the Department of Human Services, were established. Finally, violation of the chapter would result in a fine of not more than \$50.

Two new versions of the bill emerged from the Committee, LDs 1591 and 1592.