MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document   **No. 79**

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED SEVENTY-ONE

AN ACT Prohibiting the Sale or Use of Detergents Containing Phosphate.

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

   R. S., T. 38, § 418, additional.   Title 38 of the Revised Statutes is amended by adding a new section 418, to read as follows:

§ 418.   Cleaning agents containing phosphate banned

   No person, firm, association, partnership, corporation, municipality, agency of the State or other legal entity shall sell or use any detergents, presoaks, soaps, enzymes or other cleaning agents containing phosphate or phosphorous compounds after January 1, 1972.

   Whoever violates any provision of this section shall be punished by a fine of not less than $10 nor more than $50.

STATEMENT OF FACT

   Cleaning agents containing phosphate or phosphorous compounds are a pollution problem because the phosphate materials in cleaning agents find their way into the lakes, rivers, streams and other waters of the State and speed the growth of aquatic vegetation which, among other things, causes oxygen deficiencies and accelerates eutrophication or the aging process of lakes, ponds, streams and in some cases, rivers. Inasmuch as most cleaning agents end up in the water either directly or indirectly through leaching or ground water and because many sewage treatment plants are not equipped to remove phosphates and because the enzyme phosphate cleaning agents

damage sewage treatment plants and because industry is presently market-
ing cleaning agents without harmful phosphates, the State, acting through
its police power to protect the health, safety and welfare of its citizens, in-
tends to prohibit the sale or use of such phosphate cleaning agents.