

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1518

S. P. 482

In Senate, March 17, 1971

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

HARRY N. STARBRANCH, Secretary

Presented by Senator Bernard of Androscoggin.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-ONE

**AN ACT to License and Regulate Suppliers of Compressed Air
Used in Self-contained Underwater Breathing Apparatus.**

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

Sec. 1. R. S., T. 22, §§ 1566 - 1571, additional. Title 22 of the Revised Statutes is amended by adding section 1566 to 1571 to read as follows:

§ 1566. Purpose

The purpose of sections 1566 to 1571 is to protect the public health; to regulate and license the suppliers of compressed air used in self-contained breathing apparatus; to set up rules and regulations to establish the maximum permissible amount of all contaminants expressed either in percentages or in parts per million of volume, or both; to set up standards for the condition of the compression equipment; and to prescribe penalties for violations of sections 1566 to 1571.

§ 1567. Definitions

As used in sections 1566 to 1571, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following words shall have the following meanings:

1. Breathing apparatus. "Breathing apparatus" means any breathing device, either high or low pressure, which is used to sustain human life under adverse conditions.
2. Department. "Department" means the Department of Health and Welfare.
3. Suppliers of compressed air. "Suppliers of compressed air" means any

organization, agency, individual, firm, partnership or corporation that provides compressed air to be used in self-contained breathing apparatus.

§ 1568. License

It is unlawful for any supplier of compressed air to fill or supply any breathing apparatus with life supporting gases in the State of Maine unless licensed to do so by the department. The initial license fee and the annual renewal license fee shall be \$10.

§ 1569. Fees

All fees shall be collected by the department and remitted to the Treasurer of State and credited to the General Fund.

§ 1570. Rules and regulations

The department shall have the authority to promulgate rules and regulations as are necessary to promptly and effectively enforce sections 1566 to 1571.

§ 1571. Penalty

Whoever violates any of the provisions of sections 1566 to 1571 or any rules and regulations made thereunder shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$100, nor more than \$500, or by imprisonment for not more than 6 months, or by both.

Sec. 2. Appropriation. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Health and Welfare the sum of \$2,000 to carry out the purposes of this Act. The breakdown shall be as follows:

	1971-72	1972-73
HEALTH AND WELFARE, DEPARTMENT OF		
Administration		
All Other	\$1,000	\$1,000

STATEMENT OF FACT

There are many individuals, agencies or firms that are filling air tanks, either with or without payment, for use with masks in underwater diving apparatus, or for industrial or safety purposes. If not properly done, such filling of tanks can result in dangerous, or fatal, concentrations of impurities in the tank air. There have been fatalities elsewhere from this cause.