

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 975

S. P. 309

In Senate, February 21, 1973

Referred to the Committee on Judiciary. Sent down for concurrence and ordered printed.

HARRY N. STARBRANCH, Secretary

Presented by Senator Clifford of Androscoggin.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-THREE

AN ACT Relating to Unlawful Usurpation of Community Antennae
Television System Signals and Injury to its Equipment.

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

R. S., T. 17, § 2508, additional. Title 17 of the Revised Statutes is amended by adding a new section 2508 to read as follows:

§ 2508. **Usurpation of community antennae television system signals and injury to its equipment**

Whoever unlawfully and intentionally injures or destroys any wire, cable, conduit, apparatus or equipment belonging to an individual, copartnership or corporation engaged in the maintenance and operation of a community antennae television system, or without the consent of such individual, copartnership or corporation, unlawfully and intentionally rearranges or tampers with any such wire, cable, conduit, apparatus or equipment thus diverting any electronic signal of such individual, copartnership or corporation, or otherwise unlawfully and intentionally uses or causes to be used without the consent of such individual, copartnership or corporation any electronic signal of such individual, copartnership or corporation, shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$100 or by imprisonment for not more than 30 days, or by both.

STATEMENT OF FACT

At common law, diverting cable television signals is not punishable as larceny. No statute in this State defines larceny in broad enough terms to in-

clude stealing signals from a cable television (community antenna) system's cables or wires. This statute is specifically designed to prevent cable tampering by making same a malicious mischief and follows like formats adopted for gas, electric, water, telegraph and telephone services with, however, a less stringent penalty.