

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 2122

S. P. 710

In Senate, January 2, 1974

Referred to 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-FOUR

AN ACT Relating to Liability of Natural Gas Distributors.

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

R. S., T. 14, § 165, additional. Title 14 of the Revised Statutes is amended by adding a new section 165 to read as follows:

§ 165. Liability of natural gas distributors

A natural gas company or natural gas pipeline company which distributes natural gas shall be held strictly liable for death or injury to person or damage to property resulting from explosion or fire caused by natural gas, unless said explosion or fire was the result of a separate intervening cause, pleaded by said company as an affirmative defense and demonstrated by clear and convincing evidence.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to provide absolute liability on the part of gas companies or natural gas pipeline companies for death or injury or damage when caused by that natural gas, natural gas being such a dangerous instrumentality.