

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 114

H. P. 95 House of Representatives, January 7, 1975
Referred to Committee on Legal Affairs. Sent up for concurrence and
ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Call of Lewiston.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-FIVE

AN ACT to Require Fire Detection Systems in All New Residential
Construction.

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

25 MRSA, § 2464 is enacted to read:

§ 2464. Home fire detection systems

1. Fire detection systems required. Every building constructed after January 1, 1976 which is intended, wholly or in part, as a temporary or permanent human dwelling, shall contain an installed alarm system for the detection of fire approved by the Commissioner of Public Safety. These systems include, but are not limited to, smoke detection and temperature sensing systems. A dwelling is any building intended to shelter human beings while they sleep.

2. Commissioner to approve fire detection systems. The Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety is authorized, after public hearing preceded by reasonable public notice, to approve alarm systems for the detection of fire, and to make reasonable rules and regulations for the installation, inspection and maintenance of those systems.

3. Penalties. Any person or corporation who fails to install an approved fire detection system as required by this section, or who disconnects or willfully fails to maintain an installed fire detection system, shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$2,500 or by imprisonment of not more than one year, or by both.

Any person or corporation who violates any rule or regulation promulgated by the Commissioner of Public Safety under this section shall be punished by

a fine of not more than \$50 for each violation or by imprisonment for up to 10 days, or by both.

STATEMENT OF FACT

This Act will require builders to install fire detection systems in every dwelling constructed after January 1, 1976. Home fire detection systems should significantly reduce the number of deaths caused by nighttime fires and should also greatly lower fire damage to residential property.