

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 333

H. P. 281

House of Representatives, January 23, 1975

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Fraser of Mexico.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-FIVE

AN ACT to Include Rodent Infestation in the Definition of Nuisances.

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

17 MRSA, § 2802, 1st sentence is amended to read:

The erection, continuance or use of any building or place for the exercise of a trade, employment or manufacture which, by noxious exhalations, offensive smells or other annoyances, becomes injurious and dangerous to the health, comfort or property of individuals, or of the public; **maintenance of buildings public or private or circumstances that encourages rodent infestation shall be considered a nuisance under the provisions of this section**; causing or permitting abandoned wells or tin mining shafts to remain unfilled or uncovered to the injury or prejudice of others; causing or suffering any offal, filth or noisome substance to collect, or to remain in any place to the prejudice of others; obstructing or impeding, without legal authority, the passage of any navigable river, harbor or collection of water; corrupting or rendering unwholesome or impure the water of a river, stream or pond; unlawfully diverting it from its natural course or state, to the injury or prejudice of others; and the obstructing or encumbering by fences, buildings or otherwise, of highways, private ways, streets, alleys, commons, common landing places or burying grounds are nuisances within the limitations and exceptions mentioned. **The term "rodent" as used in this section includes rats, mice and voles, which are found because of improper disposal of food and human waste, unclean housing conditions, careless farming or business practices and which become a nuisance to neighboring property.**

STATEMENT OF FACT

Rodents have not previously been included as nuisances under Maine law. Their inclusion will help law enforcement agencies, especially municipal officials, deal with local infestations by force of law.