

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 622

S. P. 188

In Senate, February 12, 1975

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

HARRY N. STARBRANCH, Secretary

Presented by Senator Berry of Androscoggin.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-FIVE

AN ACT to Restrict the Possession of Radio Receiver Crystals Used to
Receive Certain Governmental Frequencies.

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

17 MRSA § 3967 is enacted to read:

§ 3967. Possession of radio crystals used to receive governmental frequencies prohibited in certain instances

1. Possession prohibited. No person shall offer for sale, sell, own or possess any radio crystal designed for use or used in any radio receiver which enables that radio receiver to pick up any frequency used in this State by a state, county or municipal law enforcement agency, by a State, county or municipal civil defense agency or by a state, county or municipal fire department.

2. Exceptions.

A. The prohibition contained in subsection 1 shall not apply to any person who has received permission to possess a specific crystal from the Commissioner of Public Safety, or his designee, or from the commissioners of the county in which the crystal is located or from the appropriate municipal officials of the municipality in which the crystal is located.

B. The prohibition contained in subsection 1 shall not apply to any state, county or local law enforcement official, civil defense official or fire department official.

3. Penalty. Any person who possesses a crystal in violation of this section shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$1,000 or by a term of imprisonment not to exceed 3 months, or by both.

STATEMENT OF FACT

Law enforcement officials have noted an increasing use of radio receivers by lawbreakers to monitor law enforcement frequencies in order to schedule crimes at times where there are no law enforcement units available for apprehension.

This bill would prohibit possession of radio crystals used to receive certain governmental frequencies unless the possessor is a member of a law enforcement, civil defense or fire department, or unless the possessor has permission from an appropriate state, county or local official.