

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1540

H. P. 1234 House of Representatives, March 27, 1975
Referred to Committee on Legal Affairs. Sent up for concurrence and
ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Jensen of Portland.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-FIVE

AN ACT to Allow and Encourage all Maine Citizens to Attend
Public Meetings.

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

22 MRSA § 1577 is enacted to read:

§ 1577. Smoking at public meetings held in public buildings prohibited

No person shall smoke tobacco or any other substance in any form in any room in a public building while a meeting open to the general public is being held in that room. Any person found guilty of violating this section shall be fined not more than \$5.

No person shall be arrested for violating this section unless there is posted in such room a sign which indicates that smoking is prohibited. Such sign shall have legible letters at least 2 inches high and proportionately wide and shall be visibly posted by the person having control over the premises.

STATEMENT OF FACT

Studies by the Surgeon General of the United States, university research centers and organizations such as the American Lung Association, the American Heart Association, and the American Cancer Society have determined the serious health problems of nonsmokers caused by others smoking tobacco in their presence.

Many people because of health reasons cannot attend public meetings where smoking is allowed.

Smoking also poses a fire hazard, increases building upkeep and maintenance costs and creates an unnecessary demand for energy for ventilation purposes.

This Act will allow more people the opportunity to attend public meetings.