

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1542

H. P. 1241

House of Representatives, April 1, 1975

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Birt of East Millinocket.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-FIVE

AN ACT Relating to Public Rest Room Facilities in Shopping Centers.

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

22 MRSA § 1578 is enacted to read:

§ 1578. Rest room facilities required in shopping centers

1. Definition; shopping center. "Shopping center" as used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, shall mean any parcel or contiguous parcels of land under single or common ownership or control, accessible to and freely used by the general public, which contains or is designed, laid out or adapted for 3 or more separate, individual retail stores or other places of retail business. Nothing herein shall be construed to include the primary business area of a municipality which is owned or controlled by the municipality, a public body corporate and politic or quasi-municipal authority.

2. Toilets required. Each shopping center shall maintain toilet facilities for the use of the general public. Such facilities shall be separated for the sexes, clearly marked and maintained in a sanitary condition and good repair. No such toilet facility shall require payment for its use. There shall be a minimum of 2 such toilets, one for each sex, in each shopping center.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to require shopping centers to provide toilet facilities for the use of their customers free of charge. This bill will eliminate the hardship on customers of interrupting shopping in shopping centers to seek out rest room facilities, particularly where small children commonly accompany parents in such situations.