

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 1593

H. P. 1312

House of Representatives, April 2, 1975

On Motion of Mr. Cote of Lewiston referred to Committee on Legal Affairs. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Wagner of Orono.

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STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-FIVE

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AN ACT Relating to Public Rest Room Facilities in  
Department Stores and Supermarkets.

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

22 MRSA § 1577 is enacted to read:

§ 1577. Rest room facilities required in department stores and supermarkets

1. Definitions. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following words shall have the following meanings:

A. Department store. "Department store" shall mean any place of business open to the general public and engaged in the retail sale to the public of a variety of classes of general merchandise and consumer goods intended to be sold for use primarily as personal, family or household goods;

B. Supermarket. "Supermarket" shall mean any place of business open to the general public and engaged in the retail sale to the public primarily of food products for human consumption, but shall not include restaurants or other businesses engaged in selling primarily food products prepared for immediate consumption on or near the business location.

2. Toilets required. Each department store and supermarket which has more than 10,000 square feet of interior customer selling space, excluding back room storage, office and processing space, shall maintain toilet facilities for the use of the general public. Such toilet 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 place of business.

## STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to require department stores and supermarkets 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 large retail stores to seek out rest room facilities, particularly where small children commonly accompany parents in such situations.