

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 269

S. P. 152

In Senate, February 9, 1977

Reported by Senator Curtis of Penobscot from Committee on Legal Affairs
and printed under Joint Rules No. 2.

MAY M. ROSS, Secretary

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-SEVEN

AN ACT Relating to Licensing of Theaters and Motion Picture Houses.

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

Sec. 1. 8 MRSA §§ 651 - 652, as last amended by PL 1971, c. 592, §§ 32 and 33, are repealed and the following enacted in their place:

§ 651. License required

No building or place of assembly shall be used for theatrical or motion picture purposes unless a license or permit shall have first been obtained from the Commissioner of Public Safety. No license shall be required if the building or place of assembly is a public or private school building, or a building owned by a municipality, county or the State; and no license shall be required if no admission fee is charged for the theatrical or motion picture production, or the production is sponsored, operated and conducted for the exclusive benefit of a social, fraternal, charitable, religious or educational organization and all admission fees are to be devoted exclusively to the uses of that organization. All buildings used for these purposes shall comply with the statutes and lawful regulations promulgated and properly adopted by the Commissioner of Public Safety before a license may be issued. Each theater auditorium in a building shall be licensed.

§ 652. Applications for license; inspections

The owner, lessee, tenant or occupant of any building or place of assembly required to be licensed under section 651 shall make application to the Commissioner of Public Safety for that license. Upon receipt of the application, the commissioner shall inspect or cause to be inspected that building or place

of assembly to be used for theatrical or motion picture purposes to ascertain its compliance with the statutes and regulations. If as a result of the inspection the commissioner is convinced that the regulations are fully complied with, he may issue a license to the person desiring to operate the theatrical or motion picture production in that building. A fee for a license shall be \$25. All theatrical or motion picture licenses issued shall expire one year after date of issue unless sooner revoked. The fees shall be credited to the State Fire Marshal's Office to defray the expenses of the office. Any balance of those fees shall not lapse but shall be carried forward as a continuing account to be expended for the same purposes in the following fiscal years.

Sec. 2. 8 MRSA §§ 653, 654 and 655, as amended by PL 1971, c. 592, §§ 32, and 33, are repealed.

Sec. 3. 8 MRSA § 656 is repealed.

Sec. 4. 8 MRSA § 657 is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

§ 657. Violations

Whoever operates a theatrical or motion picture production contrary to sections 651 and 652 shall be guilty of a Class E crime.

Sec. 5. 8 MRSA § 659 is repealed.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this new draft is to clarify the language and to provide exceptions to the licensing requirements for theatrical or motion picture productions in schools and government-owned buildings, or for productions without admission or sponsored by social, fraternal, charitable, religious or educational organizations.