

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 371

H. P. 290 House of Representatives, February 9, 1977
Referred to the Committee on Natural Resources. Sent up for concurrence
and 2,000 copies ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Perkins of Blue Hill.

Cosponsors: Mrs. Mitchell of Vassalboro, Miss Brown of Bethel, Mr.
Blodgett of Waldoboro.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-SEVEN

AN ACT Prohibiting the Sale of Certain Aerosol Sprays after January 1, 1979.

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

38 MRSA c. 16 is enacted to read:

CHAPTER 16

SALE OF

CONSUMER PRODUCTS

AFFECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

§ 1601. Aerosol spray

After January 1, 1979, no person shall sell or offer to sell in this State any aerosol spray which contains as a propellant trichloromonofluoromethane, difluorodichloromethane or any other saturated chlorofluorocarbon compound not containing hydrogen.

1. Violation. Violation of this section is a Class E crime.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to make the sale or offer for sale of aerosol sprays containing certain chlorofluorocarbon compounds a criminal offense.

A substantial body of scientific study has revealed that certain chlorofluorocarbon compounds used in aerosol sprays may be destroying or depleting the ozone layer in the earth's stratosphere.

The ozone layer is vital to life on earth, preventing approximately 99% of the sun's mid-ultraviolet radiation from reaching the earth's surface. Destruction of this layer, by allowing increased amounts of radiation to reach the earth's surface, poses a serious threat to the earth's population including increased occurrences of skin cancer, damage to food crops, damage to phytoplankton which is vital to the production of oxygen and to the food chain, and unpredictable and irreversible global climatic changes.

Evidence gathered through scientific research suggests that there has already been a $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1% depletion of the ozone layer, and it has been estimated that production of ozone-destroying chemicals is increasing at a rate of 10% per year, at which rate the ozone layer will be reduced 13% by the year 2014. An immediate halt to production of ozone-destroying chemicals would still result in an approximate $3\frac{1}{2}$ % reduction in ozone by 1990.

In addition to the damage caused to the ozone layer by certain aerosol sprays, there is substantial evidence that inhalation of aerosol sprays poses a significant hazard to human health.