

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 453

H. P. 361

House of Representatives, February 16, 1977

On motion of Mr. Goodwin of South Berwick, referred to the Committee on Health and Institutional Services. Sent up for concurrence and 1,800 copies ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Dexter of Kingfield.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-SEVEN

AN ACT to Prohibit Smoking at 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. Violation of this section shall be a civil violation for which a forfeiture of not more than \$50 may be adjudged.

No person shall be guilty of violating this section unless there is posted in the room a sign which indicates that smoking is prohibited. The 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

The purpose of this bill is to prohibit smoking at public meetings. 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 bill will allow more people the opportunity to attend public meetings.