

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(EMERGENCY)

ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 784

H. P. 640

House of Representatives, March 8, 1977

On motion of Mr. Henderson of Bangor, referred to the Committee on Local and County Government. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mrs. Huber of Falmouth.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-SEVEN

**AN ACT to Revise Fees which may be Charged by Towns for Licensing
Innkeepers, Victualers or Tavernkeepers.**

Emergency preamble. Whereas, Acts of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, municipalities are authorized to charge fees for licensing innkeepers, victualers and tavernkeepers; and

Whereas, these fees were originally sufficient to cover the municipal cost of regulating these professions; and

Whereas, these fees have not been increased since 1939; and

Whereas, these fees are now insufficient to cover the cost of municipal regulation, an insufficiency which has placed an unnecessary financial burden on the hard-pressed taxpayers of many Maine municipalities; and

Whereas, this Act will increase these fees to a realistic level and relieve this unnecessary financial burden; and

Whereas, this Act must take effect as soon as approved in order to permit municipalities to collect these increased fees during the current year; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

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

30 MRSA § 2754, 2nd sentence is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

Such ordinance or bylaw may, for the purpose of fixing such fees, establish classifications of victualers according to the size, nature or other condition of business conducted and may prescribed for each of such classifications an appropriate fee which shall not in any case exceed the sum of \$250 in towns of less than 10,000 population or the sum of \$500 in towns over 10,000 in population, excepting any town wherein a larger fee was permitted by law on July 20, 1939.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this Act shall take effect when approved.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to enable towns to charge fees for the licensing of innkeepers, victualers or tavernkeepers which more nearly reflect the actual cost to the town of the inspection, licensing and policing of these establishments. The present statute was made in 1939 and the maximum fees set forth therein are insufficient to adequately reimburse a town for these expenses.