

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1310

H. P. 1086

House of Representatives, March 28, 1977

Referred to Committee on Legal Affairs. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Curran of South Portland.

Cosponsor: Mr. Martin of Eagle Lake.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-SEVEN

**AN ACT to Require Fire Detection Systems in All New Residential
Construction.**

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

Sec. 1. 25 MRSA § 2464 is enacted to read:

§ 2464. Home fire detection systems

1. Fire detection systems required. Every building constructed or re-constructed as a sleeping area after January 1, 1978, shall have installed within 10' of any sleeping areas an approved heat or smoke detector. The detector shall conform to National Fire Protection Association Pamphlet #74 and be approved by a national testing agency such as Underwriters Laboratory, Factory Mutual or the Department of Public Safety. The Maine State Fire Chiefs' Standards Committee will publish, in conjunction with the Department of Public Safety, an annual list of approved detection units.

2. Penalties. Any person or corporation who fails to install an approved fire detection system as required by this section, or who disconnects or willfully fails to maintain an installed fire detection system, shall be guilty of a Class D offense. Any person or corporation who violates any rule or regulation promulgated by the Commissioner of Public Safety under this section shall be guilty of a Class E offense for each violation.

3. Disconnection. Any person or corporation who disconnects any fire detection system required under this section shall be punished by a fine of \$25 per day for each day the system is disconnected.

4. Enforcement. All licensed inspectors of residential dwellings shall be authorized to enforce this section.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to require builders to install fire detection systems in every dwelling constructed after January 1, 1978. Home fire detection systems should significantly reduce the number of deaths caused by nighttime fires and should also greatly lower fire damage to residential property.