

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1438

H. P. 1229

House of Representatives, April 6, 1977

Referred to the Committee on Local and County Government. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Ms. Clark of Freeport.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-SEVEN

AN ACT to Require That Maine Municipalities of 5,000 or More Population
Have A Qualified Electrical Inspector.

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

Sec. 1. 30 MRSA § 2555, 1st ¶ is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

Municipalities may, by resolution or ordinance, provide for the inspection of electrical installations within the limits of that municipality and may appoint an electrical inspector who shall enforce this subchapter and any applicable resolution or ordinance within his jurisdiction, except that every municipality with a population of 5,000 or more shall provide for the inspection of electrical installations within the limits of that municipality and shall appoint one or more certified electrical inspectors. Any municipality may join with one or more other municipalities in paying for the services of an electrical inspector, provided those municipalities have duly authorized the appointment of that inspector. In every municipality with a population of 5,000 or more, electrical inspection shall include all original installations of electrical equipment and alterations or additions to existing equipment within the territory of the municipality, except as specifically exempted or excluded by this subchapter. In any municipality with a population of under 5,000 which provides for electrical inspection, the ordinance or resolution shall declare whether the electrical inspection in that municipality shall be applicable to all or any of the following:

Sec. 2. 30 MRSA § 2555-A is enacted to read:

§ 2555-A. Certification of electrical inspectors

No person shall hold the office of certified electrical inspector unless he is currently certified as qualified by the Commissioner of Human Services. Certification of electrical inspectors shall be in accordance with the standards set by the commissioner and shall be for a period of 3 years. The commissioner may grant temporary certification for a period not to exceed 6 months. The commissioner may change a certification fee as he may deem necessary to cover the costs of certification of electrical inspection. The department shall publish semiannually a list of certified electrical inspectors.

Sec. 3. 30 MRSA § 2557, 1st ¶ is repealed and the following is enacted in its place:

In every municipality with a population of 5,000 or more and in any other municipality where a resolution or ordinance so provides, no electrical equipment shall be installed pursuant to this subchapter within or on any building, structure or premises, publicly or privately owned, nor shall any alteration or addition be made in any existing equipment without first securing a permit therefor from the electrical inspector, except minor repair work, including the replacement of lamps, replacement of fuses, installation of additional outlets, replacement of existing switches, sockets and lamps, repairs to entrance service equipment, repairs of installation of radio and low voltage equipment.

STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill would require that municipalities with a population of 5,000 or more have a qualified electrical inspector. Few municipalities within the State presently have electrical inspectors to enforce or pass judgment on the electrical work or both licensed and unlicensed tradespersons. Electrical failure is one of the prime causes of fire in Maine. The requirement that larger municipalities have electrical inspectors would directly address the problems caused by faulty manufacturing or installation or use of substandard products.