

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND NINTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 709

H. P. 562

House of Representatives, February 22, 1979

Referred to the Committee on Judiciary. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Laffin of Westbrook.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-NINE

AN ACT to Prohibit Drinking in Public Under the Criminal Code.

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

Sec. 1. 17 MRSA § 2003 is repealed.

Sec. 2. 17-A MRSA § 517 is enacted to read:

§ 517. **Drinking in an unlicensed place**

1. Any person taking a drink a liquor or offering a drink of liquor to another, or any person in charge of a public place knowingly permitting drinking at or in a public place, except places licensed for on-premise sale of liquor, or any person taking a drink of liquor or offering a drink of liquor in any vehicle not licensed for sale of liquor is guilty of the crime of drinking in an unlicensed place.

2. For the purpose of this section "public place" shall mean any common carrier, dance, entertainment, amusement or sport or grounds adjacent thereto and used in conjunction therewith, or any building or area open to the public in general or any ground adjacent thereto and used in conjunction therewith, or any highway, street or lane to which the public is invited or has access.

3. Drinking in an unlicensed place is a Class E crime.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to make drinking in an unlicensed public place a Class E crime under the Criminal Code.