

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND NINTH LEGISLATURE

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 779**

H. P. 622

House of Representatives, February 26, 1979

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mrs. Huber of Falmouth.

Cosponsor: Mr. Howe of South Portland.

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STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-NINE

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**AN ACT to Establish Standards for the Sale and Installation of Foam Plastic Insulation.**

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

25 MRSA § 2447-B is enacted to read:

**§ 2447-B. Foam Plastic Insulation Standards**

**1. Prohibition.** No individual, partnership or corporation shall install in this State any type of foam plastic insulation unless that product complies with and is installed in accordance with the following requirements.

**A. Unless otherwise excepted in the following subparagraphs, all foam plastic or foam plastic cores of manufactured assemblies shall have a flame-spread rating of not more than 75 and a smoke-developed rating of not more than 450 when tested in the maximum thickness intended for use in accordance with ASTM E-84. For all such installations, the foam plastic shall be separated from habitable or occupiable spaces by approved thermal barrier of ½ inch gypsum wallboard or equivalent thermal barrier material which will limit the average temperature rise of the unexposed surface to not more than 250° F. after 15 minutes of fire exposure complying with the ASTM E-119 standard time-temperature curve. Thermal barriers shall be installed in a manner that**

assures they will stay in place for a minimum of 15 minutes under the same test exposure conditions.

(1) Foam plastics may be used without the thermal barrier described in paragraph A when the foam plastic is protected by a minimum of one inch thickness of masonry or concrete.

(2) Foam plastics when tested in a thickness of 4 inches may be used in a thickness up to 10 inches when the building is equipped with an approved automatic fire suppression system.

For use in rooms within buildings, this requirement shall apply to both the room and that part of the building in which the room is located.

(3) Foam plastics having a maximum flame-spread rating of 75 may be used in thicknesses up to 4 inches in free-standing walk-in coolers or freezer units less than 400 square feet in floor area without a thermal barrier and without an automatic fire suppression system when the foam plastic is covered by a metal facing not less than 0.032 inch thick aluminum or No. 26 gauge steel. When protected by a thermal barrier, the foam plastic may be used in thicknesses up to 10 inches.

(4) Foam plastic insulation having a flame spread of 25 or less may be used in a thickness of not more than 4 inches without the thermal barrier when the foam plastic is covered by a metal facing not less than 0.032 inch thick aluminum or No. 26 gauge steel and the building is provided with an automatic fire suppression system.

(5) Foam plastic may be used in a roof covering assembly without the thermal barrier when the foam is separated from the interior of the building by plywood sheathing not less than ½ inch in thickness bonded with interior glue, with edges supported by blocking, tongue-and-groove joints or other approved type of edge support, or an equivalent material.

Foam plastic roof insulation which complies with Factory Mutual Standard 4550 or Underwriters Laboratories Subject 1256 need not meet the requirements of paragraph A.

For roofing applications, the smoke-developed rating shall not be limited.

(6) Foam plastics having a flame-spread rating of 75 or less may be used as a core material without a thermal barrier when the door is covered by a metal facing of not less than 0.032 inch thick aluminum or No. 26 gauge steel.

(7) Foam plastics may be used as a siding backer board with a maximum thickness of ½ inch, provided it is separated from the interior of the building by not less than 2 inches of mineral fiber insulation or equivalent, or when applied as residing over existing wall construction.

(8) Within an attic or crawl space where entry is made only for service of utilities, foam plastics shall be protected against ignition by 1½ inch thick

mineral fiber insulation, ¼ inch thick plywood, particleboard, hardboard or gypsum wallboard, No. 26 gauge sheet steel or other approved material installed in such a manner that the foam plastic is not exposed.

2. **Alternate installations.** Foam plastics may be used in applications other than as listed in this section, when specifically approved by the State Fire Marshal based on diversified tests such as the Factory Mutual Building Corner Test Procedure or the enclosed room test procedures described in Underwriters Laboratories File NC554, Project 74N8683. These approvals shall also be based on tests conducted in accordance with ASTM E-84 and ASTM D1929. Testing shall be performed on the finished manufactured foam plastic assemblies and on the maximum thickness intended for use.

3. **Penalty.** Any violation of this section shall be a Class E crime.

#### STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to require that foam plastic insulation sold in Maine meet the minimum fire resistant, corrosion resistant and thermal resistant requirements necessary to protect the health and safety of the purchaser.