

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND NINTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1163

H. P. 921

House of Representatives, March 12, 1979

Referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Blodgett of Waldoboro.

Cosponsors: Mrs. Huber of Falmouth and Miss Brown of Bethel.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-NINE

AN ACT to Encourage the Use of Solid Waste as a Fuel Source.

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

Sec. 1. 38 MRSA § 582, sub-§ 7-B, as enacted by PL 1973, c. 438, § 3, is amended by adding at the end the following new sentence:

“Fuel-burning equipment” as defined herein does not include solid waste fuel-burning equipment as defined in subsection 11-B.

Sec. 2. 38 MRSA § 582, sub-§§ 11-A and 11-B are enacted to read:

11-A. Solid waste fuel. “Solid waste fuel,” when burned as fuel in solid waste fuel-burning equipment, means any material, other than primary fossil fuel, including, without limitation, garbage, refuse, sludge from a waste treatment plant or air pollution control facility, sawdust, shavings, chips, bark, slabs or inert fill material.

11-B. Solid waste fuel-burning equipment. “Solid waste fuel-burning equipment” means any furnace, boiler, apparatus, stack and all appurtenances thereto, capable of burning solid waste fuel for the primary purpose of producing thermal energy.

Sec. 3. 38 MRSA § 598, sub-§ 2 as enacted by PL 1973, c. 438, § 8, is amended by adding at the end the following new sentence to read:

Notwithstanding the prohibitions of this subsection, emissions from solid waste fuel-burning equipment may exceed the Ringelmann chart and opacity limitations for periods not exceeding 60 minutes in any 8-hour period for purposes of soot-blowing, grate-dumping and similar cleaning activities regularly required for proper maintenance of the equipment.

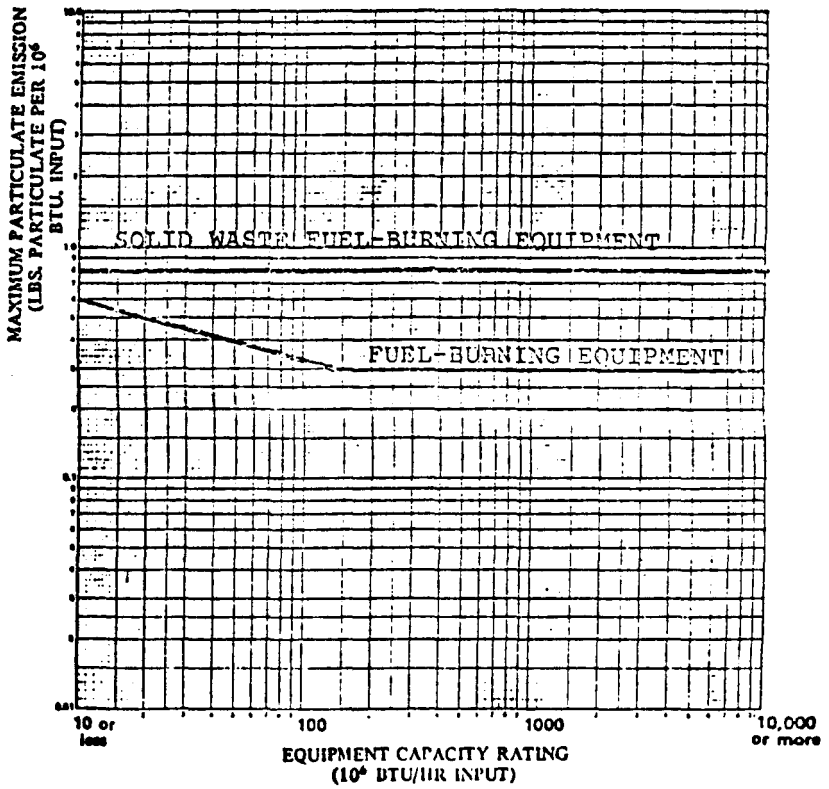
Sec. 4. 38 MRSA § 600, sub-§ 1, first ¶, as enacted by PL 1973, c. 438, § 8, is amended to read:

1. Scope. This section shall be applicable to all fuel burning and solid waste fuel-burning equipment that is fired at a rate of 3 million B.T.U. per hour or greater, regardless of fuel type, and shall be effective in all ambient air quality control regions in the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 5. 38 MRSA § 600, sub-§ 2, as enacted by PL 1973, c. 438, § 8, is amended to read:

2. Emission standard. Any person operating fuel-burning or solid waste fuel-burning equipment within the scope of this section shall limit the particulate emissions from such fuel-burning equipment in accordance with Figure A during any continuous 2-hour period. **Notwithstanding this subsection, until such time as ambient monitoring data or modeling information is available to demonstrate, on a case-by-case evaluation, that ambient air quality standards or applicable increments will not be violated, solid waste fuel-burning equipment shall be limited to the emission rate set forth in Figure A for fuel-burning equipment.**

FIGURE A



STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill would encourage the use of solid waste as a fuel source by applying a separate particulate emission standard to solid waste fuel-burning equipment. Presently, the burning of solid waste is discouraged because solid waste fuel-burning equipment is held to the same particulate and visible emission standard as oil-fired, fuel-burning equipment, despite the greater difficulty in treating emissions from solid waste fuel-burning equipment. As a result, hundreds of thousands of tons of solid waste fuel are being landfilled because the standards cannot be met. Unlike oil-fired, fuel-burning equipment, the principal emission is not sulphur dioxide, but particulate matter. By applying the same particulate standard to both oil and solid waste-fired boilers, the latter are being penalized because they are being held to a standard of less total pollution. A separate standard for solid waste boilers and oil-fired boilers would encourage the burning of solid waste by industrial and municipal sources, thereby reducing solid waste disposal problems and dependence on foreign oil solid waste disposal problems and dependence on foreign oil as a primary fuel. This separate standard for solid waste-burning equipment would only apply to particulate emissions. All other present emission limitations would still have to be met. In fact, overall emissions of sulphur dioxide would decrease, since solid waste fuel contains very little sulphur, as contrasted to oil or coal. Furthermore, by burning solid waste as fuel instead of landfilling it, a potential solid waste pollution problem is eliminated.

It is estimated that this bill would result in a savings of up to 35,000,000 gallons or 800,000 barrels of oil yearly in the State. This figure is equal to 10% of all residential fuel oil burned in the State.