

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(Governor's Bill)
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND NINTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1848

H. P. 1729

House of Representatives, January 22, 1980

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk of the House

Presented by Mr. J. Martin of Eagle Lake.

Cosponsors: Mrs. Beaulieu of Portland and Mr. Silsby of Ellsworth.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY

AN ACT to Require Fire Warning Equipment in all Residential Dwellings.

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

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

§ 2464. Fire detection equipment

1. Fire detection equipment required. No person may take any of the following actions relating to a residential family dwelling or apartment unless the dwelling or apartment has approved household fire warning equipment which conforms with standards established by the Commissioner of Public Safety for the installation, maintenance and use of fire warning equipment:

- A. Construct or substantially rehabilitate any residential family dwelling;
- B. Sell any residential family dwelling; or
- C. Rent out apartments as defined by the commissioner.

For the purposes of this section, "substantially rehabilitate" means to make any improvement costing 25% or more of the appraised value of the structure after completion of the improvement.

2. Penalties. A violation of subsection 1 is a civil violation for which a forfeiture of not more than \$500 may be adjudged.

Sec. 2. Effective date. This Act shall become effective on June 30, 1980, except that Title 25, section 2464, subsection 1, paragraph C shall become effective on January 1, 1981.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to require fire warning equipment in all residential dwellings. Fire warning equipment should significantly reduce the number of deaths caused by nighttime fires and should reduce fire damage to property.