

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND TENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1268

S. P. 441

In Senate, March 12, 1981

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

MAY M. ROSS, Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator Carpenter of Aroostook.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-ONE

AN ACT Relating to Lighted Advertising Signs.

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

17 MRSA c. 133 is enacted to read:

CHAPTER 133

LIGHTED ADVERTISING SIGNS

§ 5001. Definitions

As used in this chapter the term "lighted advertising sign" means any illuminated sign or display, whether the sign is on the premise or off premise, which identifies, informs about, advertises or generally educates the public about any product, business, service, establishment or organization.

"Lighted advertising sign" does not include: Illuminated signs of hospitals, clinics or other facilities providing emergency medical care; municipal facilities such as police department; on-premises area lighting for safety and crime prevention; and official highway information signs.

§ 5002. Prohibition

It shall be unlawful for any person, business or organization to illuminate any lighted advertising sign between the hours of 10 p.m. and 6 a.m., if the person, business, establishment or organization is not open for business. Any person,

business, establishment or organization open for business after 10 p.m. shall extinguish all lighted advertising signs from the time of closing until 6 a.m.

§ 5003. Violations

Any person who violates this chapter commits a civil violation for which a forfeiture not to exceed \$100 may be adjudged. Each day of violation shall be deemed a separate violation.

STATEMENT OF FACT

Energy is a valued commodity which must be conserved. Conservation requires the efficient use of energy. Many facilities in Maine utilize lighted advertising signs. These signs serve a useful purpose for both the public and the advertiser, however illumination of these signs late at night is of insignificant public benefit, but is detrimental as it is wasteful of energy resources. The purpose of this bill is to prevent this waste.