

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND TENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1517

H. P. 1319

House of Representatives, April 6, 1981

Reported from the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture pursuant to Joint Order, H. P. 1044.

Reported by Representative Locke from the Committee on Agriculture. Pursuant to H. P. 1044 Printed Under Joint Rules No. 2.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

STATE OF MAINE

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

**AN ACT to Define a Loose Cord of Wood for Fuel Wood Sold on that Basis.**

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

10 MRSA § 2302, sub-§ 1, ¶ A-2, as enacted by PL 1979, c. 659, § 2, is amended to read:

**A-2. Fuel wood, when sold loose and not ranked and well stowed, shall be sold by the cubic foot or loose cord, unless other arrangements are made between the buyer and seller. When sold by the loose cord, the wood in any cord shall be the same length, either 12 inches, 16 inches or 24 inches. When so sold, the volume of the cords shall be: A cord of 12 or 16 inches in length shall mean the amount of wood contained in a space of 180 cubic feet and a cord of wood 24 inches in length shall mean the amount of wood contained in a space of 195 cubic feet.**

STATEMENT OF FACT

Fuelwood is often sold by the cord, meaning a stack 4 feet by 4 feet by 8 feet. The actual volume of wood, as opposed to air space, in a cord will vary with the diameter of the wood sticks, there being a greater volume of wood in a cord with smaller diameter sticks. To avoid unnecessary stacking, handling and expense, fuelwood is frequently delivered, thrown in a pile on the ground, not in a neat

4x4x8 feet cord. All of this can lead to confusion and sometimes misrepresentation as to what is meant by the word "cord."

The Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources recently completed a study to determine the cubic volume of cords of wood, of several different stick lengths. This bill adopts the findings of that study. Except when wood is explicitly sold by the loose cord, it permits the buyer and seller to make any arrangements for selling wood, for example, it may be sold by face cord, a pile or a stick. When it is sold by the loose cord, it must confirm to the cubic foot requirements of the bill.