

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 FIRST REGULAR SESSION
2

3 ONE HUNDRED AND ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE
4

5 Legislative Document

No. 478

7 H.P. 395

House of Representatives, February 1, 1983

8 Received by the Clerk of the House on February 1, 1983. Referred to the
9 Committee on Health and Institutional Services, and ordered printed pursuant
10 to Joint Rule 14.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative Ketover of Portland.

Cosponsors: Representative Dexter of Kingfield, Senator Bustin of
Kennebec and Senator Gill of Cumberland.

12 STATE OF MAINE
13

14 IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
15 NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-THREE
16

17 AN ACT to Protect the Health of
18 Children by Prohibiting the Free
19 Distribution of Cigarettes.
20

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

23 22 MRSA §1579 is enacted to read:

24 §1579. Free distribution of cigarettes

25 1. Prohibition. No person in the business of
26 selling or otherwise distributing cigarettes or other
27 tobacco products for profit, or an employee or agent
28 of such a person, may, in the course of his business,
29 distribute any cigarette or other tobacco product
30 free to any person on a public way or sidewalk, in a
31 public park or playground, in a public school or
32 other public building, or in an entranceway, lobby,
33 hall or other common area of a private building,
34 shopping center or mall.

1 2. Penalty. Violation of this section shall
2 result in a fine of not less than \$20 nor more than
3 \$50 dollars for each violation. Every hour or part
4 of an hour during which a person engages in conduct
5 prohibited by subsection 1 constitutes a separate
6 violation.

7 STATEMENT OF FACT

8 The purpose of this bill is to prohibit the free
9 distribution of cigarettes and other tobacco products
10 in public places. Currently, distribution of ciga-
11 rettes or tobacco to a child under 16 constitutes
12 endangering the welfare of a child and is a Class D
13 crime. The problem is that cigarettes are now being
14 given away to adults who discard them, and they end
15 up being used by children anyway. This bill would
16 eliminate that problem.

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