

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 SECOND REGULAR SESSION  
2

3 ONE HUNDRED AND ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE  
4

5 Legislative Document

No. 2225

6  
7 S.P. 830

In Senate, March 13, 1984

8 Approved for introduction by the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint  
9 Rule 26.

10 Referred to the Joint Select Committee on Alcoholism Services. Sent  
down for concurrence and ordered printed.

JOY J. O'BRIEN, Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator Bustin of Kennebec.

11 Cosponsors: Senator Gill of Cumberland, Representative Diamond of  
Bangor and Representative Masterman of Milo.

12 STATE OF MAINE  
13

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

17 AN ACT Relating to Alcohol-related Birth  
18 Defects.  
19

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

22 28 MRSA §206 is enacted to read:

23 §206. Fetal alcohol syndrome; fetal alcohol effects;  
24 alcohol-related birth defects

25 1. Legislative findings; intent. The Legisla-  
26 ture finds that there is a need for public informa-  
27 tion about the harmful effects of maternal alcohol  
28 consumption during pregnancy. "Fetal alcohol  
29 syndrome" and "fetal alcohol effects" are the terms  
30 used to characterize defects that can develop as a  
31 result of exposing the fetus to alcohol. It is esti-  
32 mated that as many as 1,400 children are born in  
33 Maine each year with these defects, which include  
34 hyperactivity, joint and limb malfunctions, develop-

1 mental delays in the central nervous system, kidney  
2 problems, cardiac and growth abnormalities and severe  
3 mental and physical retardation.

4 Both the American Medical Association and the United  
5 States Surgeon General have recommended abstinence  
6 from alcohol during pregnancy. Whereas fetal alcohol  
7 syndrome and fetal alcohol effects are 100% prevent-  
8 able, the Legislature finds that it is in the public  
9 interest to provide warnings about alcohol-related  
10 birth defects at places where alcoholic beverages are  
11 consumed or sold.

12 2. Sign; requirements. All establishments li-  
13 censed to sell alcoholic beverages under this chap-  
14 ter, shall be required to display a warning sign con-  
15 cerning alcohol-related birth defects. The sign  
16 shall bear the message "WARNING: DRINKING ALCOHOLIC  
17 BEVERAGES DURING PREGNANCY CAN CAUSE BIRTH DEFECTS."

18 3. Sign; dimensions. The sign shall be of  
19 block, capital letters printed in black on white pa-  
20 per, minimum weight 110 pound index. The letters  
21 shall consume a space of no less than 6 by 9 inches.  
22 The "WARNING" letters shall be 3/4 inches high and  
23 all other letters 9/16 inches high. The sign may be  
24 larger, but not smaller, than provided in this sub-  
25 section.

26 4. Sign; placement. All signs shall be placed  
27 in an area that is easily and readily visible to the  
28 purchasing public.

29 A. In retail beer and wine stores, the sign  
30 shall be displayed over each display area, such  
31 as an individual cooler or a section of shelving.

32 B. In retail liquor stores the sign shall be  
33 displayed at each cash register.

34 C. In restaurants and bars the sign shall be  
35 displayed below the liquor license sign.

36 Nothing in this section may prevent display of more  
37 than one sign or in locations in addition to those  
38 described in this subsection.



1 signs. An additional cost of \$2,345 includes the  
2 costs of printing and mailing just under 4,000 signs  
3 and an informational letter.

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