

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 (New Draft of H.P. 232, L.D. 273)  
2 FIRST REGULAR SESSION  
3

4 ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE  
5

6 Legislative Document

No. 936

8 H.P. 676

House of Representatives, March 7, 1985

9 Reported by Representative Gwadosky from the Committee on State  
10 Government and printed under Joint Rule 2. Original bill sponsored by  
11 Representative Bott of Orono. Cosponsored by Senator Brown of  
Washington, Representative Stevenson of Unity and Representative Crowley  
of Stockton Springs.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

12  
13 STATE OF MAINE  
14

15 IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD  
16 NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-FIVE  
17

18 AN ACT to Establish Alcohol Awareness Week.  
19

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

22 Sec. 1. 1 MRSA §123 is enacted to read:

23 §123. Alcohol awareness week

24 The Governor shall annually issue a proclamation  
25 setting aside the first full week in December of each  
26 year as Alcohol Awareness Week. The proclamation  
27 shall invite and urge citizens, alcoholism service  
28 agencies, schools and other suitable organizations  
29 and groups to observe this week through appropriate  
30 activities. The Alcohol and Drug Abuse Planning Com-  
31 mittee shall, through the departments represented on  
32 the committee, make appropriate information available  
33 to citizens, organizations and groups within the lim-  
34 its of their budgets.

1           Sec. 2.   20-A   MRSA   §4803, sub-§5, as enacted by  
2 PL 1981, c. 693, §§5 and 8, is repealed and the fol-  
3 lowing enacted in its place:

4           5. Alcohol Awareness Day. Alcohol Awareness  
5 Day, the first Monday in December, shall be observed  
6 by studying for at least 45 minutes, a constructive  
7 approach toward the use of alcohol and the problems  
8 and dangers of alcohol abuse upon the individual, the  
9 family and society. The commissioner shall prepare  
10 appropriate materials for this observance.

11   STATEMENT OF FACT

12           The purpose of this bill is to designate the  
13 first full week in December of each year as Alcohol  
14 Awareness Week, and to establish and incorporate Al-  
15 alcohol Awareness Day as a special observance day in  
16 the public schools to be observed on the first Monday  
17 in December. The special event day known as "Temper-  
18 ance Day" and currently observed in the schools on  
19 March 1st has been changed to Alcohol Awareness Day  
20 to be observed on the first Monday of December during  
21 Alcohol Awareness Week.

22           Alcohol use and misuse pervade every aspect of  
23 Maine life and transcend the responsibilities of many  
24 state departments and service agencies. As many as  
25 1,400 Maine children are born each year with defects  
26 due to the maternal consumption of alcohol during  
27 pregnancy. An estimated 13% of 13 to 15-year olds  
28 and 26% of 16 to 19-year olds in Maine abuse alcohol.  
29 There are an estimated 80,000 adult alcoholics in  
30 Maine, 40,000 of whom are women. The rate of alco-  
31 holism among Maine's 197,700 citizens over 60 years  
32 of age is estimated to be between 10% and 20%.

33           The costs of the consequences of alcohol abuse in  
34 Maine are staggering -- in terms of dollars, emotion-  
35 al trauma and lost human resources. Costs associated  
36 with lost production, health care, motor vehicle ac-  
37 cidents, crime, fire and social responses are esti-  
38 mated at \$577,000,000 in Maine. Alcohol is a signif-  
39 icant factor in an estimated 50% of fatal accidents,  
40 80% of fire deaths, 65% of drownings, 75% of falls,

1 80% of arrests, 60% of child abuse cases and 36% of  
2 pedestrian accidents. It is estimated that 10% of  
3 the work force abuses alcohol and wastes 25% of work-  
4 er productivity.

5 The Alcohol and Drug Abuse Planning Committee is  
6 comprised of the Commissioners of Corrections, Educa-  
7 tional and Cultural Services, Human Services and Men-  
8 tal Health and Mental Retardation. This committee  
9 was created by the Legislature, Public Law 1983,  
10 chapter 464, to collectively address the complex  
11 problems associated with alcoholism and substance  
12 abuse prevention, education and treatment problems.  
13 The Alcohol Awareness Week is consistent with current  
14 and proposed prevention efforts of the committee and  
15 all appropriate departments.

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