

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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L.D. 1198

(Filing No. S-244 )

STATE OF MAINE  
SENATE  
112TH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT " A " to S.P. 431, L.D. 1198, Bill, "AN ACT Relating to Alcohol-related Birth Defects."

Amend the bill by striking out all of that part designated "§157." and inserting in its place the following:

'§157. Fetal alcohol syndrome; fetal alcohol effects; alcohol-related birth defects

1. Legislative findings. The Legislature finds that there is a need for public information about the harmful effects of alcohol consumption during pregnancy. "Fetal alcohol syndrome" and "fetal alcohol effects" are the terms used to characterize defects or conditions that may develop as a result of exposing the fetus to alcohol. Each year infants born in this State exhibit these defects or conditions which include hyperactivity, joint and limb malfunctions, delayed central nervous system development, kidney, cardiac and growth abnormalities and severe mental and physical retardation.

It is generally known that the American Medical Association and the United States Surgeon General have recommended abstinence from alcohol during pregnancy. Fetal alcohol syndrome and fetal alcohol effects are 100% preventable. The Legislature finds that it is in the public interest to notify and educate the public about alcohol-related birth defects at places where alcoholic beverages are sold.

2. Sign required. All special agency liquor stores licensed under section 153 and all state liquor stores shall be required to display a warning sign concerning alcohol-related birth defects. The

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 431, L.D. 1198

1 sign shall bear the message "DRINKING ALCOHOLIC BEV-  
2 ERAGES DURING PREGNANCY MAY CAUSE BIRTH DEFECTS,"  
3 and, in smaller print, a telephone number where more  
4 information may be obtained. The sign shall be sup-  
5 plied by the Alcohol Drug Abuse Planning Committee  
6 and Department of Human Services. The Bureau of Li-  
7 quor Enforcement shall be responsible for distribu-  
8 tion of the sign to the special agency liquor stores  
9 and state liquor stores.

10 3. Sign dimensions. The sign shall be of block  
11 capital letters printed in black on white paper, min-  
12 imum weight 110-pound index. The letters shall con-  
13 sume a space of no less than 6 by 9 inches. the  
14 "WARNING" letters shall be 3/4-inch high and all oth-  
15 er letters 9/16-inches high. The sign and letters may  
16 be larger, but not smaller, than provided in this  
17 section.

18 4. Sign placement. A sign shall be placed at  
19 each area where liquor is displayed so that it is  
20 readily visible to the purchasing public. Nothing in  
21 this section may prevent display of more than one  
22 sign or in locations in addition to those described  
23 in this section.

24 5. Enforcement; penalty. The Bureau of Liquor  
25 Enforcement shall, as part of it's regular enforce-  
26 ment duties, check for the display of the sign re-  
27 quired by subsections 2, 3 and 4. The bureau shall  
28 respond to reports of noncompliance. The Administra-  
29 tive Court may impose a fine, not to exceed \$100 for  
30 each day of violation, against any special agency li-  
31 quor store licensee licensed to sell alcoholic bever-  
32 ages under section 153 which is found in violation of  
33 this section. Repeated violations may be grounds for  
34 revocation or suspension of license of special agency  
35 stores.

36 6. Voluntary display of signs. In addition to  
37 the requirements of subsections 2, 3 and 4, the fol-  
38 lowing shall govern the voluntary placement of signs.



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COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 431, L.D. 1198

1       sis for any interested parties; and

2             5. Provides for the distribution of signs to  
3 other licensees at the time their licenses are re-  
4 newed or originally issued, but does not require that  
5 the sign be displayed. There is no penalty for fail-  
6 ure to display the sign, except for the special agen-  
7 cy liquor stores which are required to display the  
8 sign.

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Reported by Senator Berube for the Committee on  
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