

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

NO. 939

H.P. 698 House of Representatives, March 25, 1987 Reference to the Committee on Legal Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk Presented by Representative RUHLIN of Brewer. Cosponsored by Senator BRAWN of Knox, Representatives HALE of Sanford and GREENLAW of Standish.

STATE OF MAINE

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

AN ACT to Provide a Standard for Uniforms for 1 2 On-duty Professional Firefighters. 3 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine 4 as follows: 5 6 26 MRSA c. 27 is enacted to read: 7 CHAPTER 27 8 MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR CAREER 9 FIREFIGHTERS' UNIFORMS 10 §2111. Definitions 11 As used in this section, unless the context indi-12 cates otherwise, the following terms have the follow-

ing meanings.

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Page 1-LR1222

1 <u>1. Career firefighter. "Career firefighter"</u> 2 means a regular full-time active member of a munici-3 pal fire department if that person aids in the extin-4 guishment of fires or participates in emergency oper-5 ations. The term does not include an on-call or vol-6 unteer firefighter.

7 §2112. Requirements

8 All station uniforms purchased or sold after the 9 effective date of this chapter and worn by career 10 firefighters while on scheduled duty shall comply in 11 all respects with the most recent National Fire Pro-12 tection Association Standard Number #1975. By Octo-13 ber 1, 1990, all station uniforms worn by career 14 firefighters when on scheduled duty shall comply in 15 all respects with such a standard.

16 §2113. Penalty

After the effective date of this section, any person who knowingly violates this chapter shall be held liable for any injuries or damages caused by the violation which shall constitute a civil violation and shall be subject to a penalty of not less than \$10,000.

23 <u>§2114.</u> Limitation of liability

24 Fire departments shall not be liable for injuries
25 or damages resulting from violations of this chapter
26 by manufacturers, vendors, dealers or agents of manu 27 facturers, vendors or dealers.

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STATEMENT OF FACT

29 This bill is intended to update the safety stan-30 dards for station uniforms that are worn by "on-duty" 31 career firefighters so as not to contribute to firefighter injuries or negate the protective quali-32 33 ties of the outer garments. Experience and national studies have shown high flammability of some fabrics that may melt, burn, drip or transmit heat readily, 34 35 causing thermal burns to the wearer with no visible 36 37 damage to the outer protective clothing.

Page 2-LR1222

This bill would require that uniforms worn by "on-duty" career firefighters comply with the performance standards that are specified in the most recent National Fire Protection Association Standard Number #1975, Standard on Station/Work Uniforms for Firefighters.

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Page 3-LR1222

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