

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

NO. 1224

H.P. 912 House of Representatives, April 10, 1987  
Reference to the Committee on Business Legislation  
suggested and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk  
Presented by Representative MITCHELL of Freeport.  
Cosponsored by Representatives STEVENS of Bangor, COLES  
of Harpswell, and JACQUES of Waterville.

STATE OF MAINE

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

AN ACT to Ban the Use of Plastic Connectors  
for Containers.

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

Sec. 1. 7 MRSAs 523, sub-5 is enacted to read:

5. Container. "Container" means a glass, metal  
or plastic bottle, can, jar or other receptacle for  
holding liquids, powders or other materials, which  
has been sealed by a manufacturer and which, at the  
time of sale, contains less than one gallon or 231  
cubic inches.

Sec. 2. 7 MRSAs 524, as enacted by PL 1969, c.  
325, is amended by adding at the end a new paragraph  
to read:

1 No person may sell, or offer for sale, containers  
2 connected to each other by a separate holding device  
3 constructed of plastic rings or other plastic materi-  
4 al.

5 Sec. 3. 10 MRSA §1652-A is enacted to read:

6 §1652-A. Prohibition of plastic ring carriers on lu-  
7 bricating oil containers

8 As set forth in Title 7, section 524, no person  
9 may sell, or keep for sale, lubricating oil contain-  
10 ers less than one liter in size, connected by a sepa-  
11 rate holding device constructed of plastic rings.

12 Sec. 4. 32 MRSA §1868, sub-§2, as repealed and  
13 replaced by PL 1979, c. 703, is amended to read:

14 2. Connectors. With containers connected to each  
15 other by a separate holding device constructed of  
16 plastic rings or other plastic material as set forth  
17 in Title 7, section 524, or other any device or mate-  
18 rial which does not decompose by photodegradation,  
19 chemical degradation or biodegradation within a rea-  
20 sonable period of time upon exposure to the elements.

21 STATEMENT OF FACT

22 This bill proposes to ban the use of plastic de-  
23 vices to bind together containers. These plastic  
24 ring connectors commonly are used for 6 packs of bev-  
25 erages, juices and motor lubricating oils. Packaging  
26 trends are leading to their more widespread use in  
27 the marketplace despite the availability of easily  
28 recyclable paper products.

1 Plastic 6-pack yokes, or ring connectors, are a  
2 threat to our wildlife in that they degrade very  
3 slowly in our environment and can easily strangle or  
4 starve species that come in contact with them. Cur-  
5 rently, Maine requires plastic ring connectors to be  
6 photodegradable. However, even under optimum condi-  
7 tions these yokes take years to decompose and many  
8 discarded yokes are not exposed to sunlight and de-  
9 compose much more slowly.

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