

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(New Draft of H.P. 791, L.D. 1063)
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

NO. 1773

H.P. 1295 House of Representatives, June 9, 1987
Reported by Representative WEYMOUTH from the Committee on
Utilities and printed under Joint Rule 2.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Original bill sponsored by Representative MELENDY of
Rockland. Cosponsored by Representatives CONNOLLY of
Portland, KILKELLY of Wiscasset and Senator PERKINS of Hancock.

STATE OF MAINE

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

**AN ACT to Require the Installation of
Telecommunication Devices for the
Hearing and Speech Impaired in Public
Facilities.**

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

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Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §7505 is enacted to read:

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§7505. Telecommunication devices for the hearing and
speech impaired required in public facilities

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1. State buildings. The Department of Adminis-
tration shall require the installation and mainte-
nance of telecommunication devices for communication
for the hearing and speech impaired who rely on those

1 devices for telephone communications in locations ac-
2 cessible to the public in state buildings where a
3 primary function is the delivery of service to the
4 general public, in accordance with a plan developed
5 by the Department of Administration, Office of Infor-
6 mation Services and the Department of Human Services,
7 Bureau of Rehabilitation.

8 2. Other facilities serving the public. If pub-
9 lic telephones are provided in a public facility, it
10 shall be the responsibility of the owner or manager
11 of the public facility to provide equal access by
12 providing at least one telecommunication device for
13 the hearing and speech impaired in the public facili-
14 ty.

15 3. Public facilities. For the purposes of this
16 section, the following kinds of facilities shall be
17 considered public facilities:

18 A. Airport terminals serving scheduled flights;

19 B. Bus and train depots; and

20 C. Hospitals.

21 4. Notice. A sign noting the availability and
22 location of the telecommunication device for hearing
23 and speech impaired persons shall be posted by the
24 owner of the facility in a conspicuous location with-
25 in each public facility covered by this section.

26 5. Devices. The requirements of this section
27 may be satisfied by installation of telecommunication
28 typewriters, including so-called telecommunication
29 devices for the deaf, or other devices approved by
30 the Department of Human Services, Bureau of Rehabili-
31 tation, Division of Deafness.

32 Sec. 2. Telecommunications access plan; imple-
33 mentation. The Department of Administration, Of-
34 fice of Information Services and the Department of
35 Human Services, Bureau of Rehabilitation shall de-
36 velop by January 1, 1988, a plan to provide reason-
37 able access by January 1, 1989, to telecommunication
38 devices for the hearing and speech impaired in state
39 buildings where a primary function is the delivery of

1 service to the general public. The agencies shall
2 begin to implement the plan as soon as possible and
3 submit the plan and a progress report on implementa-
4 tion to the Governor and the Legislature by January
5 1, 1988, together with any legislative or administra-
6 tive recommendations and any recommendations for sup-
7 plementary funding found necessary.

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FISCAL NOTE

9 This bill may or may not require additional ap-
10 propriations in fiscal year 1988-89. The cost of im-
11 plementing this proposal to install telecommunication
12 devices for the deaf and hearing impaired in state
13 buildings will depend on the plan to be developed by
14 the Department of Administration and the Department
15 of Human Services. The departments will submit the
16 necessary legislation and requests for any supplement-
17 al funding by January 1, 1988.

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STATEMENT OF FACT

19 This new draft modifies the original bill to make
20 a reasonable step toward equal access for speech or
21 hearing impaired persons to public telephones without
22 excessive cost. The new draft restricts the require-
23 ment in state buildings to those with a primary func-
24 tion of delivery of services to the general public
25 and implements the program in accordance with a plan,
26 to be developed by the Bureau of Rehabilitation and
27 the Department of Administration. For other public
28 facilities, the new draft selects 3 categories: Air-
29 ports; bus and train terminals; and hospitals and re-
30 quires the owner or manager of the public facility to
31 provide a telecommunication device for the hearing
32 and speech impaired.

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