

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)



114th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION - 1989

Legislative Document

No. 430

S.P. 193

In Senate, February 23, 1989

Submitted by the Department of Public Safety pursuant to Joint Rule 24.

Reference to the Committee on Legal Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator BUSTIN of Kennebec.

Cosponsored by Senator HOLLOWAY of Lincoln, Representative MITCHELL of Freeport and Representative AULT of Wayne.

STATE OF MAINE

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

An Act to Require the Reporting of Burn Injuries Requiring Medical Attention to the Office of the State Fire Marshal.



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

3 **17-A MRSA §512, sub-§1, as enacted by PL 1975, c. 499, §1,**
5 **is amended to read:**

7 1. A person is guilty of failure to report treatment of a
9 gunshot wound or burn injury if,--being--a that person is a
11 licensed physician,--he who treats a human being for a wound
13 apparently caused by the discharge of a firearm or examines or
15 treats a human being with a burn injury affecting 5% or more of
17 the surface area of the injured person's body and knowingly fails
19 to report the same gunshot wound to a law enforcement officer or
21 the burn injuries to the Office of the State Fire Marshal within
23 24 hours.

17 STATEMENT OF FACT

19 During the past several years, a number of states have
21 enacted burn injury reporting laws. Since flammable liquids,
23 such as gasoline, are often used to set fires, the person who set
25 the fire is sometimes burned. Reports of these burns often
27 result in a more rapid identification and effective prosecution
29 of the person who set the fire. While this amendment is
primarily an antiarson tool, it has additional benefits. The
data collected from reports of accidental burn injuries will
assist in designing fire safety education programs to combat the
unsafe practices of Maine citizens that result in their being
burned.