

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
114TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1684, L.D. 2330, Bill, "An Act Concerning Security Deposits on Propane Gas Deliveries"

Amend the bill in that part designated "~~§1695.~~" in the first paragraph in the last line (page 1, line 36 in L.D.) by inserting after the following: "rate" the following: 'less any amount owed the seller at the time of the return of the deposit to the customer'

Further amend the bill by inserting before the emergency clause the following:

§1696. Penalty and enforcement

Any person, firm, partnership or corporation that violates any of the provisions of this chapter commits a civil violation for which a civil forfeiture of not more than \$500 for each offense must be adjudged.

When the Attorney General becomes cognizant of a possible violation of this chapter, the Attorney General shall investigate the matter and, if the Attorney General has reason to believe a violation has occurred, the Attorney General shall bring action in court to enforce the provisions of this chapter.'

Further amend the bill by inserting before the statement of fact the following:

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FISCAL NOTE

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The work load of the Judicial Department and the Department of the Attorney General may increase as a result of this bill. If additional costs are incurred due to an increase in the number of cases filed or the number of violations, the respective departments have indicated these costs can be absorbed within budgeted resources.'

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STATEMENT OF FACT

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The original bill establishes that, as a condition of requiring a security deposit, liquid propane dealers be required to return the deposit plus interest.

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This amendment clarifies that if the customer owes the seller an outstanding balance at the time any deposit is due for return, the outstanding balance must be credited against the deposit prior to the seller returning it to the customer. The amendment makes violation of the provisions of the bill a civil offense with a maximum penalty of \$500.

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This amendment also adds a fiscal note.

Reported by the Committee on Business Legislation
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