## MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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## 116th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1993

Legislative Document

No. 256

H.P. 193

House of Representatives, February 2, 1993

An Act to Allow the Use of Advanced Lightweight Beverage Containers.

Reference to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources suggested and ordered printed.

JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative JACQUES of Waterville. Cosponsored by Representatives: ANDERSON of Woodland, GOULD of Greenville, GWADOSKY of Fairfield, LORD of Waterboro, VIGUE of Winslow, Senators: CAREY of Kennebec, MARDEN of Kennebec.

Вe	it	enacted	bv	the	People	of	the	State	of	Maine	as	follows
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Sec. 1. 32 MRSA §1862, sub-§2, as affected by PL 1989, c. 869,
Pt. C, §12, is amended to read:

- 2. Beverage container. "Beverage container" means a bottle, can, jar or other container made of glass, metal or plastic which that has been sealed by a manufacturer and which that, at the time of sale, contains one gallon or less of a beverage. "Beverage container" does not include those containers in which the container material represents less than 2% of the total unit weight.
- Sec. 2. 32 MRSA §1868, sub-§3, as affected by PL 1989, c. 869, Pt. C, §12, is amended to read:
  - 3. Plastic cans. In a container composed of one or more plastics if the basic structure of the container, exclusive of the closure device, also includes aluminum or steel, except where the container consists of metallized plastic film in which the metallizing does not exceed a thickness of 500 angstroms and the metallizing is less than 0.2% of the total weight of the container material; and
  - Sec. 3. 32 MRSA §1868, sub-§4, as amended by PL 1991, c. 304, §3, is further amended to read:
    - 4. Aseptic and composite material beverage containers. In a container composed, in whole or in part, of aluminum and plastic or of aluminum and paper in combination where those materials are for practical reasons inseparable, except where those containers consist of metallized plastic film in which the metallizing does not exceed a thickness of 500 angstroms and the metallizing is less than 0.2% of the total weight of the container material. No milk or dairy-derived products in liquid form to which additional flavoring ingredients have been added may be sold in containers prohibited under this subsection.

## STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill allows the sale of metallized or plastic film containers that meet standards requiring significant reductions in the total weight of packaging material necessary to store beverages by removing the prohibition on the sale in this State of this new form of container material. Metallized plastic film containers utilize a very thin coating of aluminum, similar to that found on the inside of potato chip bags, and are banned in this State due to the prohibition on aseptic or composite material beverage containers.

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Recognizing the nature of this new product, this bill also removes from the bottle deposit law plastic film containers that have substantially reduced packaging material when compared to total unit weight.

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