## MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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## 116th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1993

Legislative Document

No. 512

H.P. 399

House of Representatives, February 16, 1993

An Act to Centralize Licensing for Retail Businesses.

Reference to the Committee on Business Legislation suggested and ordered printed.

∕JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative MICHAEL of Auburn.

Cosponsored by Representative HOGLUND of Portland, Senator TITCOMB of Cumberland and Representatives: BARTH of Bethel, CLOUTIER of South Portland, COFFMAN of Old Town, DORE of Auburn, JOY of Island Falls, LEMONT of Kittery, LINDAHL of Northport, MARSHALL of Eliot, NORTON of Winthrop, TUFTS of Stockton Springs, WINN of Glenburn, Senator: HANDY of Androscoggin.

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

2	
_	Sec. 1. 10 MRSA §8003, sub-§2, ¶B is enacted to read:
4	D. Within the Division of Licensian and Enforcement the
_	B. Within the Division of Licensing and Enforcement the
6	commissioner shall create the Central Licensing Office. The
	Central Licensing Office shall establish and administer a
8	one-step licensing process for all retail businesses as
	follows:
10	
	(1) Create a consolidated license procedure that
12	allows each business to check off on a cover sheet all
	state and municipal permits or licenses for which it is
14	applying and receive all permit and license
	applications from the Central Licensing Office;
16	
	(2) Total all permit and license fees due from that
18	business, collect these fees on a semiannual basis, 1/2
10	of the total fees to be due by January first and 1/2 of
20	the total fees to be due by July first of each year,
	and distribute them to the appropriate funds or
22	<u>licensing entities;</u>
24	(3) Forward a copy of the appropriate permit or
	license application to any commission, department,
26	municipality or other agency that has responsibility
- •	for licensing or permitting that retail business;
28	Tot treempting of permittering that retain business,
20	(4) Coordinate and supervise the lisensing process to
20	(4) Coordinate and supervise the licensing process to
30	ensure that all involved agencies process the
	applications and complete any necessary inspections in
32	a timely fashion;
34	(5) Respond to inquiries from the business and
	requests for information from the individual licensing
36	entities;
38	(6) With the approval of the municipal officers,
30	appoint municipalities as central licensing agents to
40	provide all licenses and inspections for retail
40	
	businesses with less than 10,000 square feet of retail
42	space, allowing these municipalities to retain 1/2 of
	all state permit and license fees collected, remitting
44	the other 1/2 of these fees to the State;
46	(7) Provide, at state expense, licensing and
	inspection training to municipalities seeking
48	appointment or appointed as central licensing agents;
	and
50	- Control of the Cont

	(8) Reduce by 10% all permit and license fees require
2	for retail businesses with less than 10,000 square fee
	of retail space.
4	
	Sec. 2. 36 MRSA §1951-A, sub-§3 is enacted to read:
6	
	<ol><li>Retention of percentage of tax by retailers. Every</li></ol>
8	retailer may retain 1/2 of 1% of the sales tax collected on the
	first \$1,000,000 of sales per business establishment to offset
10	bookkeeping costs of the licensing process.
12	
14	STATEMENT OF FACT
14	SIAICIVICIAI OF FACI
16	Currently, a single business has to go to numerous agencies
10	for required licenses. This bill establishes the Central
18	Licensing Office in the Division of Licensing and Enforcement of
	the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation. This
20	office provides the retail business with all necessary state and
	local license applications, collects on a semiannual basis the
22	licensing fees due and supervises the licensing process.
24	Municipalities could become central licensing agents and
	perform all these functions for a retail business with less than
26	10,000 square feet, receiving state training and retaining half
	of the state license fees collected.
28	
	This bill also allows retail businesses to keep 1/2 of 1% of
30	the sales tax on the first \$1,000,000 of sales to offset
	licensing costs.