

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 117th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1995

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Legislative Document

No. 837

S.P. 298

In Senate, March 14, 1995

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### **An Act to Protect Landlords from Certain Types of Fraud.**

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "May M. Ross".

MAY M. ROSS  
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator BERUBE of Androscoggin.  
Cosponsored by Senators: CIANCHETTE of Somerset, FERGUSON of Oxford,  
Representatives: DAGGETT of Augusta, MURPHY of Berwick.

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

4 **Sec. 1. 17-A MRSA §908** is enacted to read:

6 **§908. Rental housing fraud**

8 1. A person is guilty of rental housing fraud if, with  
10 intent to defraud, that person obtains rental housing that the  
person knows is available only for compensation and that person  
by deception avoids payment for that housing.

12 2. Rental housing fraud is:

14 A. A Class D crime if the value of the rental housing  
exceeds \$500; or

16 B. A Class E crime if the value of the rental housing does  
18 not exceed \$500.

20 **STATEMENT OF FACT**

22 This bill establishes the crime of rental housing fraud when  
24 a person, with the intent to defraud, obtains rental housing and  
26 by deception avoids paying rent.