

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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117th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1995

Legislative Document

No. 1329

H.P. 940

House of Representatives, April 13, 1995

An Act Concerning Ring Holding Devices Used in Packaging.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph W. Mayo".

JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative GOULD of Greenville.

Cosponsored by Representatives: BAILEY of Township 27, BUCK of Yarmouth, BUNKER of Kossuth Township, CLARK of Millinocket, CLUKEY of Houlton, DAMREN of Belgrade, DEXTER of Kingfield, GREENLAW of Standish, GWADOSKY of Fairfield, HARTNETT of Freeport, JACQUES of Waterville, JONES of Pittsfield, KERR of Old Orchard Beach, LIBBY of Buxton, MARSHALL of Eliot, MORRISON of Bangor, NICKERSON of Turner, POULIN of Oakland, POULIOT of Lewiston, ROBICHAUD of Caribou, VIGUE of Winslow, WATERHOUSE of Bridgton, WHEELER of Bridgewater, WHITCOMB of Waldo, Senators: BUTLAND of Cumberland, KIEFFER of Aroostook, LORD of York, RUHLIN of Penobscot.

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

4 **Sec. 1. 7 MRSA §18**, as amended by PL 1993, c. 743, §§1 and 2,
is repealed.

6 **Sec. 2. 7 MRSA §18-A**, as amended by PL 1993, c. 743, §3, is
repealed.

8 **Sec. 3. 7 MRSA §18-B** is enacted to read:

10 **§18-B. Ring holding devices**

12 A person may not sell or offer for sale products in
14 containers connected by a separate holding device constructed of
16 rings with at least one hole larger than 1 3/4 inches in
18 diameter, unless the rings or device decompose by
20 photodegradation, chemical degradation or biodegradation within a
reasonable period of time upon exposure to the elements, in
accordance with regulations adopted by the United States
Environmental Protection Agency, effective September 1, 1994 and
codified at 40 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 238.

22 **Sec. 4. PL 1993, c. 743, §4** is repealed.

24 **STATEMENT OF FACT**

26
28 This bill repeals the ban on plastic 6-pack rings, scheduled
to become effective 90 days after adjournment of the First
30 Regular Session of the 117th Legislature, and replaces it with a
ban on all ring holding devices that do not meet the
32 degradability standards for plastic ring carriers adopted by the
United States Environmental Protection Agency. The bill also
34 repeals a requirement that distributors of plastic ring holders
and distributors of products that use plastic ring holders report
36 to the Maine Waste Management Agency the amount of ring holders
recycled.