

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999

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Legislative Document

No. 2098

H.P. 1466

House of Representatives, March 30, 1999

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**An Act to Improve the Safety of Firefighters.**

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Reference to the Committee on Criminal Justice suggested and ordered printed.

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

JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative DUPLESSIE of Westbrook.  
Cosponsored by Senator DOUGLASS of Androscoggin and  
Representatives: AHEARNE of Madawaska, BERRY of Livermore, DUDLEY of Portland,  
MAILHOT of Lewiston, McALEVEY of Waterboro, SANBORN of Alton, SAXL of Bangor,  
Senator: RAND of Cumberland.

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

4 Sec. 1. 25 MRSA §§2466 and 2467 are enacted to read:

6 §2466. Emblem for truss construction

8 1. Definitions. As used in this section, unless the  
context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the  
following meanings.

10 A. "Emblem" means a sign of a minimum size of 5 by 4 inches  
constructed of aluminum or stainless steel stock plate with  
a minimum thickness of 1/16 inch. A white diamond grade or  
equivalent reflective capital letter T must be located at  
the center of the sign. This letter must have a minimum  
height of 2 1/2 inches. A diagram of a truss must be placed  
on the sign in accordance with the directions listed in this  
paragraph. The diagram of a roof truss must be similar to 2  
capital letter Ws placed side by side and connected to each  
other with a heavy or dual line drawn across the top and  
bottom of the capital letter Ws to create a drawing of a  
simple cord truss. The diagram for a floor truss must be  
similar to a capital letter V with a heavy or dual line  
drawn across the top and bottom of the capital letter V to  
create a drawing of a simple cord truss.

12 (1) For structures where a truss or trusses are used  
in the roof construction, a diagram of a roof truss  
must be placed across the top of the reflective capital  
letter T.

14 (2) For structures where a truss or trusses are used  
in the floor construction, the diagram of a floor truss  
must be placed across the bottom of the capital letter  
T.

16 (3) Structures using a truss or trusses in both roof  
and floor must have the diagram of a roof truss placed  
across the top and the diagram of a floor truss placed  
across the bottom of the capital letter T.

18 (4) When the truss material is made of wood, there  
must be a circle that is one inch in diameter placed  
alongside the capital letter T on the left-hand side.  
This circle must be of the same color and material as  
the capital letter T.

20 (5) When the truss material is made of metal or steel,  
there must be a circle that is one inch in diameter  
placed alongside the capital letter T on the right-hand

2 side. This circle must be of the same color and  
3 material as the capital letter T.

4 (6) If both materials are used in any of the truss  
5 construction, then the circles that are one inch in  
6 diameter must be placed on both sides of the capital  
7 letter T.

8  
9  
10 B. "Planned real estate development" or "development" means  
11 any real property situated within the State, whether  
12 contiguous or not, that consists of or will consist of  
13 separately owned, leased or rented areas, irrespective of  
14 form, including lots, parcels, units or interest, is offered  
15 or disposed of pursuant to a common promotional plan and  
16 provides for common or shared elements or interests in or  
17 use of real property.

18 C. "Truss" means a roof or floor structure or a partial  
19 roof or floor structure consisting of a group of triangles  
20 arranged in such a manner that loads applied at the points  
21 of the intersections of the structural members will cause  
22 only direct stresses, tension or compression within the  
23 structural members. Trusses may include but are not limited  
24 to the following constructions: bowstring; warren;  
25 sawtooth; scissors; cambered fink; hammer beam; pratt; fink;  
26 inverted queen posts; and floor truss.

27  
28 2. Emblem required. Except as provided in subsection 3, an  
29 emblem must be affixed to a structure with a truss or trusses  
30 used in the construction or partial construction of roof or floor  
31 structures. The emblem must be permanently affixed to the left  
32 of the main entrance of the structure and at each series of  
33 entrance doors at a height between 4 to 6 feet above the ground.  
34 Additional emblems may be required by the fire chief for the  
35 jurisdiction in which the building is located when the distance  
36 between entrances or the length of a series of entrances  
37 necessitates additional emblems for visibility for fire  
38 departments. The owner of the structure shall install and  
39 maintain the emblem.

40  
41 3. Exceptions. Subsection 2 does not apply to:

42  
43 A. Detached one-family and 2-family residential structures  
44 with truss construction built before the effective date of  
45 this section that are not part of a planned real estate  
46 development; however, the governing body of a municipality  
47 may require by local ordinance that emblems be affixed to  
48 these structures; and

2 B. Individual structures and dwelling units with truss  
3 construction that are part of a planned real estate  
4 development, as long as an emblem is affixed at each  
5 entranceway to the development.

6 4. Violation. A violation of this section is a Class E  
7 crime.

8  
9 **§2467. Voluntary program for identification of hazardous and**  
10 **vacant buildings**

11  
12 1. Voluntary program. A governing body of a municipality  
13 may adopt the program established in this section to provide a  
14 uniform method to identify hazardous or vacant buildings to  
15 lessen the frequency and severity of injuries that can occur in  
16 these buildings, especially in the course of fighting fires.

17  
18 2. State standard: elements. The program is the  
19 recommended state standard and includes the physical posting by a  
20 fire department within a municipality that adopts the program of  
21 vacant buildings that may be hazardous.

22  
23 3. Posting requirements. Postings must consist of a sign  
24 or poster 2 feet square with a reflective background that is  
25 readily visible from the street. Posting must be located on the  
26 front of the building at or above the 2nd floor level and between  
27 openings. Postings may not be located over doors, windows or  
28 other openings, where they may be obscured by smoke or fire. All  
29 markings on the postings must be readily visible from the street  
30 and, if determined necessary by the fire department, markings  
31 must be located on the sides and or rear of the building as  
32 needed. In addition, a posting must be located adjacent to all  
33 entrances and on penthouses.

34  
35 A posting of a vacant building must contain one of the following  
36 symbols.

37  
38 A. A vacant building that has interior hazards to such a  
39 degree that interior fire-fighting operations must be  
40 conducted with extreme caution is indicated by a square that  
41 has a diagonal line running from the top right-hand corner  
42 to the bottom left-hand corner.

43  
44 B. A vacant building from which fire-fighting operations  
45 must be conducted from the exterior of the building is  
46 indicated by a square that has 2 crossed diagonal lines, one  
47 running from the top right-hand corner to the bottom  
48 left-hand corner and one running from the top left-hand  
49 corner to the bottom right-hand corner.

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## SUMMARY

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This bill requires structures that use trusses in the floor or roof or parts of the floor or roof to display an emblem on the building signifying that construction and the materials used in the truss construction. The purpose is to increase the protection to firefighters by informing them that trusses are present. A violation for noncompliance is a Class E crime.

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The bill also provides a voluntary statewide recommendation for a uniform program of identifying dangerous or vacant properties to further protect firefighters.