

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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CRIMINAL JUSTICE

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
120TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 237, L.D. 274, Bill, "An Act to Establish Parity in Requirements for Exits Among Apartments, Boardinghouses and Lodging Houses"

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

'An Act Concerning the Requirements for Exits for Boardinghouses and Lodging Houses'

Further amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and before the summary and inserting in its place the following:

'Sec. 1. 25 MRSA §2453, first ¶, as amended by PL 1999, c. 384, §19, is further amended to read:

Each story above the first story of a building used as a schoolhouse, orphan asylum, hospital for the mentally ill, reformatory, opera house, hall for public assemblies, hotel, ~~boardinghouse or lodginghouse accommodating more than 6 persons,~~ or tenement house occupied by more than 2 families, or store in which more than 10 persons are employed above the first story, must be provided with more than one way of egress, by stairways on the inside or fire escapes on the outside of such building. Such stairways and fire escapes must be so constructed, in such a number, or such size and in such location as to give reasonably safe, adequate and convenient means of exit, in view of the number of persons who may need to use such stairway or fire escape, must at all times be kept free from obstruction and must be accessible from each room in each story above the first story.'

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

Further amend the bill by inserting at the end before the summary the following:

FISCAL NOTE

The additional enforcement costs can be absorbed by the Office of the State Fire Marshal within the Department of Public Safety utilizing existing budgeted resources.'

SUMMARY

This amendment eliminates references to boardinghouses and lodging houses in the provision of law regarding more than one means of egress. The effect of this change for lodging houses, also known as bed and breakfasts, is to permit them to follow less stringent standards contained in the new National Fire Protection Association Life Safety Code 101 if they have a sprinkler system. Boardinghouses are regulated by a different provision of law and are subject to more stringent requirements than contained in this section of law.

This amendment also adds a fiscal note to the bill.