

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 120th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2001

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Legislative Document

No. 899

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H.P. 695

House of Representatives, February 15, 2001

**An Act to Expand the Laws Pertaining to Accessibility for Persons with Physical Disabilities.**

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Reference to the Committee on State and Local Government suggested and ordered printed.

*Millicent M. MacFarland*

MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND, Clerk

Presented by Representative GAGNE of Buckfield.  
Cosponsored by Senator GAGNON of Kennebec and  
Representatives: BROOKS of Winterport, COLWELL of Gardiner, LAVERRIERE-  
BOUCHER of Biddeford, SCHNEIDER of Durham, TUTTLE of Sanford.

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

2

**Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §4594-D, sub-§2,** as enacted by PL 1989, c. 795,  
4 is amended to read:

6       **2. Facilities attested.** This section applies to any  
7 building or facility constructed specifically as a place of  
8 public accommodation or place of employment on or after January  
9 1, 1991, or when the estimated total costs for remodeling,  
10 enlarging or renovating an existing building exceed \$100,000, and  
11 the remodeling, enlarging or renovating is begun after January 1,  
12 1991. Subsection 12 applies to any building or facility  
13 constructed specifically as a place of public accommodation or  
14 place of employment on or after January 1, 2002, or when the  
15 estimated total costs for remodeling, enlarging or renovating an  
16 existing building exceed \$100,000 and the remodeling, enlarging  
17 or renovating is begun on or after January 1, 2002.

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**Sec. 2. 5 MRSA §4594-D, sub-§12** is enacted to read:

20

12. Entrances after January 1, 2002. Entrances to a  
22 building or facility that are part of an accessible route must be  
23 automatic doors or power-assisted doors, as defined in the  
24 standards of construction. This subsection applies to any  
25 building or facility constructed specifically as a place of  
26 public accommodation or place of employment on or after January  
27 1, 2002, or when the estimated total costs for remodeling,  
28 enlarging or renovating an existing building exceed \$100,000 and  
29 the remodeling, enlarging or renovating is begun on or after  
30 January 1, 2002.

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**SUMMARY**

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This bill applies to new construction and major remodeling,  
36 enlarging and renovating, on or after January 1, 2002, of  
37 buildings or facilities that are considered public  
38 accommodations. The entrances to these buildings and facilities  
39 must be automatic doors or power-assisted doors. The standards  
40 of construction are currently defined in statute as the 1986  
41 standards set forth by the American National Standards Institute  
42 in the publication "Specifications for Making Buildings and  
43 Facilities Accessible to and Usable by Physically Handicapped  
44 People," ANSI A 117.1-1986.

46

The standards define "automatic door" as a door equipped  
47 with a power-operated mechanism and controls that open and close  
48 the door automatically upon receipt of a momentary actuating  
signal. The switch that begins the automatic cycle may be a

2 photoelectric device, floor mat, sensing device or manual switch  
mounted on or near the door itself.

4           The standards define "power-assisted door" as a door used  
6 for human passage with a mechanism that helps to open the door or  
to relieve the opening resistance of the door upon activation of  
8 a switch or the use of continued force applied to the door  
itself. If the switch or door is released, such doors  
10 immediately begin to close or close completely within 3 to 30  
seconds.