



120th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2001

Legislative Document

No. 1561

H.P. 1161

House of Representatives, March 13, 2001

An Act to Require Sprinkler Protection in all Secondary and Postsecondary Dormitories.

Reference to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

Millicent M. Mac Jailand

MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND, Clerk

Presented by Representative DUPLESSIE of Westbrook. Cosponsored by President MICHAUD of Penobscot and Representatives: BRANNIGAN of Portland, COWGER of Hallowell, DAIGLE of Arundel, RINES of Wiscasset, THOMAS of Orono, Senators: MARTIN of Aroostook, McALEVEY of York, RAND of Cumberland.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:
Sec. 1. 25 MRSA §2463-A is enacted to read:
<u>§2463-A. Installation of sprinkler systems in dormitories</u>
1. Approved automatic sprinkler system. A dormitory must
be equipped with a complete, approved automatic sprinkler system.
2. Definitions. As used in this section, unless the
context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the
following meanings.
A. "Automatic sprinkler system" means an automatic
<u>sprinkler system that at a minimum satisfies the</u>
requirements of Pamphlet 13 or 13R of the National Fire
Protection Association or is recognized by the State Fire
Marshal.
B. "Department" means the Department of Public Safety.
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C. "Dormitory" means a housing unit of a public or private
educational institution in the State.
D. "Educational institutional" means a secondary or
postsecondary educational institution in the State.
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3. Conversion of existing buildings. A building or existing structure that is converted into a dormitory must comply
with the provisions of subsection 1 before the department
approves the dormitory for occupancy.
approves the dormitory for occupancy.
4. Automatic Sprinkler Loan Program. The Automatic
Sprinkler Loan Program, administered by the Finance Authority of
Maine, is established for the purpose of providing low-interest
loans to educational institutions to comply with this section. A
loan issued under this subsection has an interest rate of 0% per
annum for public educational institutions and 2% per annum for
private educational institutions and must be repaid within 10
years of the date of the loan. The Finance Authority of Maine
shall draft a form to apply for a loan under this subsection.
The Finance Authority of Maine may not approve a loan application
unless the applicant has completed the application and agreed to
the terms and conditions required by the Finance Authority of
Maine. Loan payments made pursuant to this subsection are
credited to the Automatic Sprinkler Loan Fund, established in
subsection 5. The Finance Authority of Maine may develop other
standards and criteria for a loan under this subsection that the
Finance Authority of Maine determines are appropriate.

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5. Automatic Sprinkler Loan Fund. The Automatic Sprinkler 2 Loan Fund, referred to in this subsection as the "fund," is established. The Finance Authority of Maine shall administer the 4 fund pursuant to rules adopted by the Finance Authority of Maine. The fund consists of loan payments made pursuant to 6 subsection 4, any money appropriated or allocated for inclusion in the fund and any funds received as contributions from private 8 and public sources. Eligible investment earnings credited to 10 the assets of the fund become part of the assets to the fund. Any balance remaining in the fund at the end of the year does not lapse but must be carried forward. The proceeds of the fund may 12 be applied and expended for the purposes of this section pursuant to rules adopted by the Finance Authority of Maine. 14

 16 6. Rules. The Finance Authority of Maine shall adopt routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375,
18 subchapter II-A to implement this section.

20 Sec. 2. Compliance schedule. A dormitory that exists on the effective date of this Act must comply with the provisions of this Act within 5 years of the effective date of this Act in accordance with the following schedule:

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1. An educational institution that has no more than 2 26 dormitories must comply with this Act within 3 years of the effective date of this Act; and

2. An educational institution that has 3 or more 30 dormitories must comply with the provisions of this Act within 5 years of the effective date of this Act.

Sec. 3. Reports. The Department of Public Safety, Office of State Fire Marshal shall report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over criminal justice matters every 2 years by January 1st beginning in 2003 concerning compliance with this Act.

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SUMMARY

Automatic fire suppression systems installed in buildings 42 are proven to be a very effective method of preventing injury, death and widespread property damage. The safety of student 44 in dormitories of educational institutions is housed а particularly vital concern. This bill requires all dormitories 46 of public and private secondary and postsecondary educational institutions to be equipped with automatic sprinkler systems 48 within 5 years and establishes a fund to provide 10-year, 50 low-interest loans to help the educational institutions meet this requirement.