

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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121st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2003

Legislative Document

No. 1230

H.P. 904

House of Representatives, March 6, 2003

An Act To Provide Mandatory Minimum Penalties for Vandalizing a Street Sign or Traffic Control Sign

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

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative SNOWE-MELLO of Poland.
Cosponsored by Senator DAMON of Hancock and
Representatives: HEIDRICH of Oxford, RECTOR of Thomaston, TRAHAN of Waldoboro,
VAUGHAN of Durham, Senator: CARPENTER of York.

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

4 **Sec. 1. 17-A MRSA §505-A** is enacted to read:

6 **§505-A. Removal or destruction of street signs or traffic control signs**

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

10 A. "Municipality" means a city, town, special district, county, plantation or municipal village or corporation within the State.

12 B. "Street sign" means a marker placed on a public way that denotes a physical address that has been erected by officials of the municipality having jurisdiction over the public way.

14 C. "Traffic control sign" means an official route marker; warning sign; sign directing traffic to or from a community, bridge, ferry or airport; or sign regulating traffic that has been erected by officers having jurisdiction over the public way.

16 2. A person may not intentionally destroy, mutilate, deface, injure or remove a street sign or traffic control sign.

18 3. Removal or destruction of a street sign or traffic control sign is punishable as set forth in this subsection.

20 A. A person convicted of a violation of this section who is at least 18 years of age is subject to a minimum fine of \$500, none of which may be waived by the court.

22 B. A person who is less than 18 years of age who is adjudicated to have violated this section must pay restitution in the amount necessary to reimburse the municipality for the street sign or traffic control sign and perform at least 8 hours of community service in the affected municipality.

24 **SUMMARY**

26 This bill prohibits the removal or destruction of street signs or traffic control signs. A person who is at least 18 years of age who is convicted of removing or destroying a street or traffic control sign is subject to a minimum penalty of \$500. A juvenile who is adjudicated to have committed the crime is

2 required to pay restitution to the municipality for the street
sign or traffic control sign and perform at least 8 hours of
community service in the affected municipality.

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