

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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122nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2006

Legislative Document

No. 1879

H.P. 1319

House of Representatives, January 3, 2006

An Act To Enhance Firefighter Safety

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Received by the Clerk of the House on December 28, 2005. Referred to the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative DUPLESSIE of Westbrook.
Cosponsored by Senator BRYANT of Oxford and
Representatives: BROWN of South Berwick, BRYANT of Windham, GERZOFKY of
Brunswick, GROSE of Woolwich, HANLEY of Gardiner, MAZUREK of Rockland,
PATRICK of Rumford, SMITH of Monmouth, TUTTLE of Sanford, Senators: BARTLETT of
Cumberland, NASS of York.

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

4 **Sec. 1. 25 MRSA §2466 is 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
12 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.

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28 (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.

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32 (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.

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38 (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.

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42 (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.

44
46
48 (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
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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.

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

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

26
27 2. Emblem required. Except as provided in subsection 3, an
28 emblem must be affixed to a structure with a truss or trusses
29 used in the construction or partial construction of roof or floor
30 structures. The emblem must be permanently affixed to the left
31 of the main entrance of the structure and at each series of
32 entrance doors at a height from 4 to 6 feet above the ground.
33 Additional emblems may be required by the fire chief for the
34 jurisdiction in which the building is located when the distance
35 between entrances or the length of a series of entrances
36 necessitates additional emblems for visibility for fire
37 departments. The owner of the structure shall install and
38 maintain the emblem.

39 3. Exceptions. Subsection 2 does not apply to:

40
41 A. Detached one-family and 2-family residential structures
42 with truss construction built before the effective date of
43 this section that are not part of a planned real estate
44 development; however, the governing body of a municipality
45 may require by local ordinance that emblems be affixed to
46 these structures; and
47 these structures; and
48

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 Sec. 2. 25 MRSA §2467 is enacted to read:

10 §2467. Voluntary standards for identification of hazardous and
11 vacant buildings

12 1. Voluntary standards. A governing body of a municipality
13 may adopt the standards 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 2. State standards; elements. The standards are
18 recommended by the State and include the physical posting by a
19 fire department within a municipality that adopts the standards
20 of vacant buildings that may be hazardous.

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

31 The posting of a vacant building must use signs containing one of
32 the following symbols.

33 A. A vacant building that has interior hazards to such a
34 degree that interior fire-fighting operations must be
35 conducted with extreme caution is indicated as such by a
36 square that has a diagonal line running from the top
37 right-hand corner to the bottom left-hand corner.

38 B. A vacant building for which fire-fighting operations
39 must be conducted from the exterior of the building is
40 indicated as such by a square that has 2 crossed diagonal
41 lines, one running from the top right-hand corner to the
42 bottom left-hand corner and one running from the top
43 left-hand corner to the bottom right-hand corner.

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SUMMARY

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6 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
8 building signifying that construction and the materials used in
the truss construction. The purpose is to increase the
10 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
14 for uniform standards of identifying dangerous or vacant
properties to further protect firefighters.