

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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123rd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2007

Legislative Document

No. 316

S.P. 98

January 19, 2007

An Act To Reduce Bomb Threats at Public Institutions and Businesses

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator DOW of Lincoln.
Cosponsored by Representative WEAVER of York and
Senators: SAVAGE of Knox, SHERMAN of Aroostook, SNOWE-MELLO of Androscoggin,
Representatives: PINGREE of North Haven, RICHARDSON of Warren.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 17-A MRS §509, sub-§1-A** is enacted to read:

3 1-A. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 57, a person is guilty as an
4 accomplice to false public alarm if that person has specific knowledge concerning the
5 perpetrator of an act of false public alarm and within 24 hours of obtaining the knowledge
6 fails to notify a law enforcement officer or a member of a fire fighting agency or other
7 person who is likely to notify a law enforcement officer or a member of a fire fighting
8 agency.

9 **Sec. 2. 17-A MRS §509, sub-§2,** as enacted by PL 1975, c. 499, §1, is amended
10 to read:

11 **2.** False public alarm is a Class D crime. A person who is under 18 years of age and
12 is convicted of or adjudicated under Title 15, chapter 507 as having committed false
13 public alarm may not possess a drivers license or instruction permit or attend a driver
14 education program under Title 29-A, chapter 11 until the July 1st subsequent to the
15 person's 18th birthday.

16 **Sec. 3. Notice.** The Department of Education shall require that an elementary or
17 secondary school post the provisions of the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 17-A, section
18 509, subsection 2 regarding a person under 18 years of age in plain sight where students
19 congregate inside each school building.

20 **SUMMARY**

21 This bill makes a person with specific knowledge of the perpetrator of an act of a
22 false public alarm an accomplice to the crime of false public alarm if that person does not
23 notify authorities within 24 hours of obtaining knowledge of the crime. This bill also
24 prohibits a person under 18 years of age who is convicted of or adjudicated as having
25 committed a false public alarm from possessing a driver's license or instruction permit or
26 attending a driver education program until the July 1st subsequent to the person's 18th
27 birthday and directs the Department of Education to require every elementary and
28 secondary school to post notice of these provisions.