

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 123rd MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2007

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Legislative Document

No. 949

S.P. 300

March 1, 2007

### **An Act To Amend the Laws Concerning Public Fighting**

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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 COURTNEY of York.  
Cosponsored by Representative NASS of Acton and  
Senator: McCORMICK of Kennebec, Representatives: BOLAND of Sanford,  
CROSTHWAITE of Ellsworth, DUPREY of Hampden, TUTTLE of Sanford.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 17-A MRSA §501, sub-§1**, as amended by PL 1989, c. 266, is further  
3 amended to read:

4 1. In a public place, ~~he~~ the person intentionally or recklessly causes annoyance to  
5 others by intentionally:

6 A. Making loud and unreasonable noises; or

7 B. Activating a device, or exposing a substance, ~~which~~ that releases noxious and  
8 offensive odors; ~~or~~

9 ~~C. Engaging in fighting, without being licensed or privileged to do so;~~

10 **Sec. 2. 17-A MRSA §501, sub-§1-A** is enacted to read:

11 1-A. In a public place, the person intentionally or recklessly engages in fighting  
12 without being licensed or privileged to do so;

13 **SUMMARY**

14 Under current law, a person who engages in public fighting is guilty of disorderly  
15 conduct if such behavior causes annoyance to others. This bill removes the requirement  
16 that such behavior must cause annoyance to others and provides instead that a person is  
17 guilty of disorderly conduct if, in a public place, that person engages in fighting without  
18 being licensed or privileged to do so.