

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

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STATE OF MAINE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 124TH LEGISLATURE SECOND REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1126, L.D. 1588, Bill, "An Act To Change the Penalties for Writing Bad Checks"

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and before the summary and inserting the following:

Sec. 1. 14 MRSA §6071, sub-§2, as amended by PL 1995, c. 288, §1, is further amended to read:

2. Attorney's fees. If the person liable does not pay the amount of the check, plus costs and interest, before the hearing, then the court may award reasonable attorney's fees to the prevailing party. In addition, the court may award to the holder of the check a civil penalty, not to exceed ~~\$50~~ \$150, to be paid by the person liable for the check.

Sec. 2. 14 MRSA §6073, sub-§5, as enacted by PL 1995, c. 288, §3, is amended to read:

5. A penalty not to exceed ~~\$50~~ \$150.'

SUMMARY

This amendment replaces the bill and increases from an amount not to exceed \$50 to an amount not to exceed \$150 the civil penalty that a court may order be paid to the holder of a bad check by a person liable for the check. This penalty, in addition to reasonable attorney's fees, may be imposed by the court when the person liable does not pay the amount of the check, plus costs and interest, before the hearing.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT