

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2015

Legislative Document

No. 1436

H.P. 980

House of Representatives, May 28, 2015

**An Act To Better Serve the Seasonal Tourist Market during the
2015 Summer Season and Early Autumn with a Pilot Program To
Extend the Authorized Hours during Which Liquor May Be Served**

(EMERGENCY)

Reference to the Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

Robert B. Hunt

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative KINNEY of Limington. (GOVERNOR'S BILL)

1 **Emergency preamble. Whereas,** acts and resolves of the Legislature do not
2 become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

3 **Whereas,** most tourism in Maine occurs between Memorial Day and Labor Day
4 each year; and

5 **Whereas,** tourists who visited Maine in 2014 when surveyed cited food and
6 beverage options as among the highest areas of interest; and

7 **Whereas,** overnight visitors had median expenditures of \$200 per party for food and
8 beverages in 2014; and

9 **Whereas,** tourists from Massachusetts and New York represented approximately
10 40% of overnight visitors to Maine in 2014 and both of those states allow alcoholic
11 beverages to be served on the premises until 2 a.m. and 4 a.m., respectively; and

12 **Whereas,** Maine's hospitality industry loses opportunities to cater to out-of-state
13 customers accustomed to longer hours of on-premises liquor service and this loss results
14 in fewer sales; and

15 **Whereas,** this legislation must take effect before the expiration of the 90-day period
16 in order for it to be in effect during the summer tourist season; and

17 **Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within
18 the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as
19 immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now,
20 therefore,

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

22 **Sec. 1. 28-A MRSA §4, sub-§1,** as amended by PL 2015, c. 74, §1, is further
23 amended to read:

24 **1. Hours for sale of liquor.** Except as provided in paragraphs B ~~and D~~ to E,
25 licensees may sell or deliver liquor from 5 a.m. on any day until 1 a.m. of the following
26 day.

27 B. Licensees may sell liquor on January 1st of any year from 12 midnight to 2 a.m.

28 (1) In areas in which liquor may be sold except on Sundays, if January 1st falls
29 on a Monday, licensees may sell or deliver liquor between 9 p.m. Sunday,
30 December 31st and 2 a.m. January 1st, notwithstanding any local option
31 decisions to the contrary.

32 D. Wholesale licensees may sell or deliver liquor to licensed establishments from 4
33 a.m. on any day until 1 a.m. the following day.

34 E. On-premises retail licensees may sell liquor from 5 a.m. to 2 a.m. the following
35 day, notwithstanding any local option decisions to the contrary.

36 This paragraph is repealed October 12, 2015.

