

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Date 6/8/23

MAJORITY

(Filing No S-220)

CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

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STATE OF MAINE

SENATE

131ST LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S P 186, L D 405, "An Act to Prevent False Reporting Leading to Evacuation, Shutdown or Lockdown"

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following

'An Act Regarding False Public Alarms or Reports and Aggravated False Public Alarms or Reports'

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

'Sec. 1. 17-A MRSA §509, as amended by PL 1977, c 510, §56, is further amended to read

§509. False public alarm or report, aggravated false public alarm or report

1. A person is guilty of false public alarm or report if

A He The person knowingly gives or causes to be given false information to any a law enforcement officer, an emergency communications center or the enhanced 9-1-1 services established in Title 25, chapter 352 with the intent of inducing such the officer, the emergency communications center or any other emergency services personnel to believe that a crime has been committed or that another has committed a crime, knowing the information to be false, or

B He The person knowingly gives or causes to be given false information to any a law enforcement officer, a member of a fire-fighting firefighting agency, including a volunteer fire department, an emergency communications center, the enhanced 9-1-1 services established in Title 25, chapter 352 or any other person knowing that such the other person is likely to communicate the information to a law enforcement officer or, a member of a fire-fighting firefighting agency, an emergency communications center or any other emergency services personnel concerning a fire, explosive or other similar substance which that is capable of endangering the safety of persons, knowing that such the information is false, or knowing that he the person has no information relating to the fire, explosive or other similar substance, or

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT



1 C ~~He~~ The person knowingly gives or causes to be given false information concerning  
2 an emergency to ~~any an~~ an ambulance service, an emergency communications center, the  
3 enhanced 9-1-1 services established in Title 25, chapter 352, any other emergency  
4 services personnel or ~~to any~~ a government agency or public utility that deals with  
5 emergencies involving danger to life or property, with the intent of inducing such the  
6 service, personnel, agency, center or utility to respond to the reported emergency,  
7 knowing ~~such the~~ the information to be false

8 A violation of this subsection is a Class D crime

9 For the purposes of this subsection, "emergency communications center" means a state,  
10 county or municipal government entity that receives calls by 9-1-1, business lines, radio or  
11 other methods requesting public service or emergency response from public safety agencies  
12 and, as appropriate, dispatches requests to public safety agencies and assists in coordinating  
13 the response between agencies and other specialized professionals

14 ~~2. False public alarm is a Class D crime~~

15 3. A person is guilty of aggravated false public alarm or report if the person violates  
16 subsection 1 and the violation causes the evacuation, shutdown or lockdown of a building,  
17 school, public square or park, place of assembly or public transportation facility

18 A violation of this subsection is a Class C crime

19 **Sec. 2. 17-A MRS §1501, sub-§8, ¶C,** as enacted by PL 2021, c 170, §1, is  
20 amended to read

21 C The discriminatory motive of the person in making a false public alarm or report or  
22 an aggravated false public alarm in violation of section 509, ~~subsection 1,~~ and'

23 Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section  
24 number to read consecutively

**SUMMARY**

26 This amendment, which is the majority report of the committee, replaces the bill and  
27 changes the title

28 It adds emergency communications centers to the list of organizations that may receive  
29 false information during the commission of the crimes of false public alarm or report and  
30 aggravated false public alarm or report

31 It defines "emergency communications center" to mean a state, county or municipal  
32 government entity that receives calls by 9-1-1, business lines, radio or other methods  
33 requesting public service or emergency response from public safety agencies and, as  
34 appropriate, dispatches requests to public safety agencies and assists in coordinating the  
35 response between agencies and other specialized professionals

36 It removes language in the bill that would trigger the crime of aggravated false public  
37 alarm or report if the violation generates an emergency response from a law enforcement  
38 officer or agency, firefighter or firefighting agency or any other emergency services  
39 personnel

**FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**  
(See attached)

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**



# 131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 405

LR 1220(02)

**An Act to Prevent False Reporting Leading to Evacuation, Shutdown or Lockdown**

**Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-220)**  
**Committee: Criminal Justice and Public Safety**  
**Fiscal Note Required: Yes**

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## Fiscal Note

Current biennium cost increase - General Fund  
Minor revenue increase - General Fund  
Minor revenue increase - Other Special Revenue Funds

### Correctional and Judicial Impact Statements

The bill creates a Class C crime for making a false public alarm or report that causes the evacuation, shutdown or lockdown of certain establishments. The current average cost of incarcerating one individual for a single year is \$55,203.

The additional workload associated with the minimal number of new felony cases filed in the court system does not require additional funding at this time.

The collection of additional fine revenue will increase General Fund and dedicated revenue by minor amounts.