

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SEVENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

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HOUSE

NO. 485

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House of Representatives, March 22, 1919.

Reported by Mr. Barnes from Committee on Judiciary and ordered printed under joint rules.

CLYDE R. CHAPMAN, Clerk.

Presented by Mr. Barnes of Houlton.

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STATE OF MAINE

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND  
NINE HUNDRED AND NINETEEN

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AN ACT to Prevent and Punish the Desecration, Mutilation or Improper Use of the Flag of the United States of America, and of this State, and of any Flag, Standard, Color, Ensign or Shield Authorized by Law and to Make Uniform the Law Relating Thereto.

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

Section 1. [Definition.] The words flag, standard, color, 2 ensign or shield, as used in this act, shall include any flag, 3 standard, color, ensign or shield, or copy, picture or rep- 4 resentation thereof, made of any substance or represented 5 or produced thereon, and of any size, evidently purporting 6 to be such flag, standard, color, ensign or shield of the

7 United States or of this state, or a copy, picture or repre-  
8 sentation thereof.

Sect. 2. [Desecration.] No person shall, in any manner,  
2 for exhibition or display :

(a) place or cause to be placed any word, figure, mark,  
2 picture, design, drawing or advertisement of any nature  
3 upon any flag, standard, color, ensign or shield of the Unit-  
4 ed States or of this state, or authorized by any law of the  
5 United States or of this state ; or

(b) expose to public view any such flag, standard, color,  
2 ensign or shield upon which shall have been printed, paint-  
3 ed or otherwise produced, or to which shall have been at-  
4 tached, appended, affixed or annexed any such word, figure,  
5 mark, picture, design, drawing or advertisement ; or

(c) expose to public view for sale, manufacture, or other-  
2 wise, or to sell, give or have in possession for sale, for gift  
3 or for use for any purpose, any substance, being an article  
4 of merchandise, or receptacle, or thing for holding or carry-  
5 ing merchandise, upon or to which shall have been pro-  
6 duced or attached any such flag, standard, color, ensign or  
7 shield, in order to advertise, call attention to, decorate, mark  
8 or distinguish such article or substance.

Sect. 3. [Mutilation.] No person shall publicly mutilate,  
2 deface, defile, defy, trample upon, or by word or act cast  
3 contempt upon any such flag, standard, color, ensign or  
4 shield.

Sect. 4. [Exceptions.] This statute shall not apply to

2 any act permitted by the statutes of the United States (or  
3 of this state), or by the United States Army and Navy regu-  
4 lations, nor shall it apply to any printed or written docu-  
5 ment or production, stationery, ornament, picture or jewel-  
6 ry whereon shall be depicted said flag, standard, color, en-  
7 sign or shield with no design or words thereon and dis-  
8 connected with any advertisement.

Sect. 5. [Penalty.] Any violation of section two of this  
2 act shall be a misdemeanor and punishable by a fine of not  
3 more than fifty dollars. Any violation of section three of  
4 this act shall be punishable by a fine of not more than five  
5 hundred dollars, or by imprisonment for not more than six  
6 months, or by both fine and imprisonment, in the discre-  
7 tion of the court.

Sect. 6. [Inconsistent Acts Repealed.] All laws and parts  
2 of laws in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Sect. 7. [Interpretation.] This act shall be so construed  
2 as to effectuate its general purpose and to make uniform  
3 the laws of the states which enact it.

Sect. 8. [Name of Act.] This act may be cited as the  
2 Uniform Flag Law.