

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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N I N E T I E T H                      L E G I S L A T U R E

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 675**

S. P. 362

In Senate, February 11, 1941.

Referred to Committee on Judiciary and 650 copies ordered printed.  
Sent down for concurrence.

ROYDEN V. BROWN, Secretary.

Presented by Senator Harvey of York.

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STATE OF MAINE

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
FORTY-ONE

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**AN ACT Enacting the Sabotage Prevention Act.**

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

**Sec. 1. Definitions.** As used in this act :

“Highway” includes any private or public street, way or other place used for travel to or from property.

“Highway Commissioners” means any individual, board or other body having authority under then existing law to discontinue the use of the highway which it is desired to restrict or close to public use and travel.

“Public Utility” includes any pipe line, gas, electric, heat, water, oil, sewer, telephone, telegraph, radio, railway, railroad, airplane, transportation, communication or other system, by whomsoever owned or operated for public use.

**Sec. 2. Intentional injury to or interference with property.** Whoever intentionally destroys, impairs, injures, interferes or tampers with real or personal property with reasonable grounds to believe that such act will hinder, delay or interfere with the preparation of the United States or of any of the states for defense or for war, or with the prosecution of war by the United States, shall be punished by imprisonment for not more than 10 years, or by a fine of not more than \$10,000, or by both such fine and

imprisonment: Provided, if such person so acts with the intent to hinder, delay or interfere with the preparation of the United States or of any of the states for defense or for war, or with the prosecution of war by the United States, the minimum punishment shall be imprisonment for not less than 1 year.

**Sec. 3. Intentionally defective workmanship.** Whoever intentionally makes or causes to be made or omits to note on inspection any defect in any article or thing with reasonable grounds to believe that such article or thing is intended to be used in connection with the preparation of the United States or any of the states for defense or for war, or for the prosecution of war by the United States, or that such article or thing is one of a number of similar articles or things, some of which are intended so to be used, shall be punished by imprisonment for not more than 10 years, or a fine of not more than \$10,000, or by both such fine and imprisonment: Provided, if such person so acts or so fails to act with the intent to hinder, delay or interfere with the preparation of the United States or of any of the states for defense or for war, or with the prosecution of war by the United States, the minimum punishment shall be imprisonment for not less than 1 year.

**Sec. 4. Attempts.** Whoever attempts to commit any of the crimes defined by this act shall be liable to  $\frac{1}{2}$  the punishment prescribed for the completed crime. In addition to the acts which constitute an attempt to commit a crime under the law of this state, the solicitation or incitement of another to commit any of the crimes defined by this act not followed by the commission of the crime, the collection or assemblage of any materials with the intent that the same are to be used then or at a later time in the commission of such crime, or the entry, with or without permission, of a building, enclosure or other premises of another with the intent to commit any such crime therein or thereon shall constitute an attempt to commit such crime.

**Sec. 5. Conspirators.** If 2 or more persons conspire to commit any crime defined by this act, each of such persons is guilty of conspiracy and subject to the same punishment as if he had committed the crime which he conspired to commit, whether or not any act be done in furtherance of the conspiracy. It shall not constitute any defense or ground of suspension of judgment, sentence or punishment on behalf of any person prosecuted under this section, that any of his fellow conspirators has been acquitted, has not been arrested or convicted, is not amenable to justice or has been pardoned or otherwise discharged before or after conviction.

**Sec. 6. Witnesses' privileges.** No person shall be excused from attend-

ing and testifying, or producing any books, papers, or other documents before any court, magistrate, referee or grand jury upon any investigation, proceeding or trial, for or relating to or concerned with a violation of any section of this act or attempt to commit such violation, upon the ground or for the reason that the testimony or evidence, documentary or otherwise, required of him by the state may tend to convict him of a crime or to subject him to a penalty or forfeiture; but no person shall be prosecuted or subjected to any penalty or forfeiture for or on account of any transaction, matter or thing concerning which he may so testify or produce evidence, documentary or otherwise, and no testimony so given or produced shall be received against him, upon any criminal investigation, proceeding or trial, except upon a prosecution for perjury or contempt of court based upon the giving or producing of such testimony.

**Sec. 7. Unlawful entry on property.** Any individual, partnership, association, corporation, municipal corporation or state or any political subdivision thereof engaged in, or preparing to engage in, the manufacture, transportation or storage of any product to be used in the preparation of the United States or of any of the states for defense or for war or in the prosecution of war by the United States, or the manufacture, transportation, distribution or storage of gas, oil, coal, electricity or water, or any of said natural or artificial persons operating any public utility, whose property, except where it fronts on water or where there are entrances for railway cars, vehicles, persons or things, is surrounded by a fence or wall, or a fence or wall and buildings, may post around his or its property at each gate, entrance, dock or railway entrance and every 100 feet of water front a sign reading "No Entry Without Permission". Whoever without permission of such owner shall wilfully enter upon premises so posted shall be punished by imprisonment for not more than 10 days, or by a fine of not more than \$50, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

**Sec. 8. Questioning and detaining suspected persons.** Any peace officer or any person employed as watchman, guard, or in a supervisory capacity on premises posted as provided in section 7 may stop any person found on any premises to which entry without permission is forbidden by section 7 and may detain him for the purpose of demanding, and may demand, of him his name, address and business in such place. If said peace officer or employee has reason to believe from the answers of the person so interrogated that such person has no right to be in such place, said peace officer shall forthwith release such person or he may arrest such person without a warrant on the charge of violating the provisions of section 7; and said employee shall forthwith release such person or turn him over to a

peace officer, who may arrest him without a warrant on the charge of violating the provisions of section 7.

**Sec. 9. Closing and restricting use of highway.** Any individual, partnership, association, corporation, municipal corporation or state or any political subdivision thereof engaged in or preparing to engage in the manufacture, transportation or storage of any product to be used in the preparation of the United States or any of the states for defense or for war or in the prosecution of war by the United States, or in the manufacture, transportation, distribution or storage of gas, oil, coal, electricity or water, or any of said natural or artificial persons operating any public utility, who has property so used which he or it believes will be endangered if public use and travel is not restricted or prohibited on one or more highways or parts thereof upon which such property abuts, may petition the highway commissioners of any city, town or county to close one or more of said highways or parts thereof to public use and travel or to restrict by order the use and travel upon one or more of said highways or parts thereof.

Upon receipt of such petition, the highway commissioners shall set a day for hearing and give notice thereof by publication in a newspaper having general circulation in the city, town or county in which such property is located, such notice to be at least 7 days prior to the date set for hearing. If after hearing the highway commissioners determine that the public safety and the safety of the property of the petitioner so require, they shall by suitable order close to public use and travel, or reasonably restrict the use and travel upon one or more of said highways or parts thereof: Provided, the highway commissioners may issue written permits to travel over the highways so closed or restricted to responsible and reputable persons for such term, under such conditions and in such form as said commissioners may prescribe. Appropriate notices in letters at least 3 inches high shall be posted conspicuously at each end of any highway so closed or restricted by such order. The highway commissioners may at any time revoke or modify any order so made.

**Sec. 10. Penalty for going upon closed or restricted highway.** Whoever violates any order made under section 9 shall be punished by imprisonment for not more than 10 days, or by a fine of not more than \$50, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

**Sec. 11. Rights of labor.** Nothing in this act shall be construed to impair, curtail or destroy the rights of employees and their representatives, to self-organization, to form, join, or assist labor organizations, to bargain collectively through representatives of their own choosing, and to engage

in concerted activities, for the purpose of collective bargaining or other mutual aid or protection.

**Sec. 12. Severability.** If any provision of this act or the application thereof to any person or circumstances is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this act are declared to be severable.

**Sec. 13. Relation to other statutes.** All acts and parts of acts inconsistent with this act are hereby suspended in their application to any proceedings under this act. If conduct prohibited by this act is also made unlawful by another or other laws, the offender may be convicted for the violation of this act or of such other law or laws.

**Sec. 14. Short title.** This act may be cited as the "Sabotage Prevention Act".