

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

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N I N E T Y - S E C O N D    L E G I S L A T U R E

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 1220**

H. P. 1506

House of Representatives, July 10, 1946

Referred to Committee on Judiciary. Sent up for concurrence and 1,500 copies ordered printed.

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Nadeau of Biddeford.

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**STATE OF MAINE**

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
FORTY-SIX

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**AN ACT Relating to Price Control.**

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**Emergency preamble.** Whereas, by the expiration on June 30, 1946 of the federal law, prices for commodities and services fixed under special act by the office of price administration became free from the control thereof by the office of price administration; and

Whereas, an emergency has been created by the lapse of said act due to the acute shortage of commodities and services, which emergency has been created by war, the effects of war and the aftermath of hostilities; and

Whereas, prices of commodities and services have been increased and it is necessary to prevent unjust, unreasonable and oppressive prices and to forestall profiteering and speculations; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the legislature these facts create an emergency within the meaning of section 16, part third, article IV of the constitution of Maine as enacted by article XXXI, and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

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

**Sec. 1. Price control.** All persons, partnerships, associations and cor-

porations doing business as wholesalers, jobbers or retailers are hereby prohibited from demanding or receiving for commodities and services in excess of that paid, charged or fixed therefor by the office of price administration on June 30, 1946.

**Sec. 2. Limitation.** The provisions of this act shall apply only to those commodities and services, the prices of which were fixed by the office of price administration on June 30, 1946.

**Sec. 3. Redress.** Any consumer who has been charged or who has paid a price in excess of the price as established by the provisions of section 1 shall have the right to commence or maintain in the courts of the state an action for treble damages for such excess price, and attorneys' fees.

**Sec. 4. Jurisdiction.** Municipal courts shall have concurrent jurisdiction with the superior court in prosecutions under the provisions of this act.

**Sec. 5. Penalty.** Whoever violates the provisions of this act shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$500, or by imprisonment for not less than 6 months, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

**Sec. 6. Enforcement.** The commissioner of agriculture shall be charged with the duty of enforcing the provisions of this act.

**Sec. 7. Limitation.** No violations of the provisions of this act between June 30, 1946 and the effective date of this act shall be prosecuted.

**Sec. 8. Duration.** The provisions of this act shall extend only until June 30, 1947.

**Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this act shall take effect when approved.