

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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

Legislative Document

No. 1580

S. P. 579

In Senate, May 14, 1957

Reported by Senator Silsby of Hancock from the Committee on Judiciary and printed under Joint Rules No. 10.

CHESTER T. WINSLOW, Secretary

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
FIFTY-SEVEN

AN ACT Relating to the Distribution and Sale of Publications Depicting Crime and Torture.

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

Sec. 1. R. S., c. 134, § 24, repealed and replaced. Section 24 of chapter 134 of the Revised Statutes is hereby repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:

'Sec. 24. Distribution and sale of publications depicting crime and torture. Whoever sells, rents, displays for sale, loans, gives or distributes to a child under 18 years of age or offers for sale to such a child any pamphlet, magazine, comic book, picture, picture book which contains fictional illustrations of sadism, masochism, sexual perversion, bestiality or lust, or of physical torture of human beings, shall be punished by imprisonment for not more than 30 days or by fine of not more than \$50. Under this section it shall be necessary to prove that the defendant knows of the offensive picture contained in the literature involved.'

Sec. 2. R. S., c. 134, § 27, amended. Section 27 of chapter 134 of the Revised Statutes is hereby amended to read as follows:

'Sec. 27. Circulation among minors of criminal news and obscene pictures; jurisdiction. Whoever knowingly sells, lends, gives away or shows to any minor any book, pamphlet, magazine, newspaper or other printed paper devoted to the publication, or principally made up of criminal news, police reports or accounts of criminal deeds, or pictures and stories of lust or crime; or circulates, posts or causes to be circulated or posted in any conspicuous or public place any picture, handbill or poster containing obscene, indecent or immoral representations; or in any manner hires, uses or employs any minor to sell or

give away, or in any manner to distribute, or who, having the care, custody or control of any minor, permits such minor to sell or give away, or in any manner to distribute any book, magazine, pamphlet or newspaper as described in this section shall be punished by a fine of not less than ~~\$25~~ 50 nor more than \$100 or by imprisonment for not more than ~~6~~ 11 months, or by both ~~such fine and imprisonment~~. Trial justices within their county shall have, by complaint, jurisdiction of the offenses mentioned in this section, original and concurrent with municipal courts and the Superior Court.'