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Date: (Filing No. H- )

**CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY**

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**STATE OF MAINE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
125TH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to H.P. 71, L.D. 83, Bill, “An Act To Legalize the Sale, Possession and Use of Fireworks”

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the title and before the summary and inserting the following:

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

**Sec. 1. 8 MRSA §221-A, sub-§1-A** is enacted to read:

**1-A. Consumer fireworks.** "Consumer fireworks" has the same meaning as in 27 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 555.11 or subsequent provision, but includes only products that are tested and certified by a 3rd-party testing laboratory as conforming with United States Consumer Product Safety Commission standards, in accordance with 15 United States Code, Chapter 47. "Consumer fireworks" does not include the following products:

- A. Missile-type rockets, as defined by the State Fire Marshal by rule;
- B. Helicopters and aerial spinners, as defined by the State Fire Marshal by rule; and
- C. Sky rockets and bottle rockets. For purposes of this paragraph, "sky rockets and bottle rockets" means cylindrical tubes containing not more than 20 grams of chemical composition, as defined by the State Fire Marshal by rule, with a wooden stick attached for guidance and stability that rise into the air upon ignition and that may produce a burst of color or sound at or near the height of flight.

**Sec. 2. 8 MRSA §221-A, sub-§3-A** is enacted to read:

**3-A. Fire safety official.** "Fire safety official" means a state or municipal official who has authority to enforce life and fire safety laws, statutes, ordinances, rules or regulations.

**Sec. 3. 8 MRSA §221-A, sub-§4,** as amended by PL 2011, c. 202, §1, is further amended to read:

**4. Fireworks.** "Fireworks" means any:

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**

- 1 A. Combustible or explosive composition or substance;
- 2 B. Combination of explosive compositions or substances;
- 3 C. Other article that was prepared for the purpose of producing a visible or audible
- 4 effect by combustion, explosion, deflagration or detonation, including blank
- 5 cartridges or toy cannons in which explosives are used, the type of balloon that
- 6 requires fire underneath to propel it, firecrackers, torpedoes, skyrockets, roman
- 7 candles, bombs, rockets, wheels, colored fires, fountains, mines, serpents and other
- 8 fireworks of like construction;
- 9 D. Fireworks containing any explosive or flammable compound; or
- 10 E. Tablets or other device containing any explosive substance or flammable
- 11 compound.

12 The term "fireworks" does not include consumer fireworks or toy pistols, toy canes, toy  
13 guns or other devices in which paper caps or plastic caps containing 25/100 grains or less  
14 of explosive compound are used if they are constructed so that the hand can not come in  
15 contact with the cap when in place for the explosion, toy pistol paper caps or plastic caps  
16 that contain less than 20/100 grains of explosive mixture, sparklers that do not contain  
17 magnesium chlorates or perchlorates or signal, antique or replica cannons if no projectile  
18 is fired.

19 **Sec. 4. 8 MRSA §223, sub-§1**, as amended by PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. C, §3 and  
20 affected by Pt. X, §2, is further amended to read:

21 **1. Sale of fireworks prohibited.** A Except for the sale of consumer fireworks under  
22 section 223-A, a person may not sell, possess with the intent to sell or offer for sale  
23 fireworks.

24 **Sec. 5. 8 MRSA §223-A** is enacted to read:

25 **§223-A. Sale of consumer fireworks**

26 **1. Sale of consumer fireworks.** A person may not sell consumer fireworks unless  
27 that person is 21 years of age or older and possesses:

- 28 A. A federal permit to sell fireworks under 18 United States Code, Section 843;
- 29 B. A license under subsection 3; and
- 30 C. A municipal permit if required under subsection 2.

31 **2. Municipalities.** The legislative body of a municipality may adopt an ordinance to  
32 prohibit or restrict the sale or use of consumer fireworks within the municipality.  
33 Municipalities that prohibit or restrict the sale or use of consumer fireworks shall provide  
34 to the Office of the State Fire Marshal a copy of the relevant restriction or prohibition  
35 within 60 days of adoption. A municipality may require that a person obtain a municipal  
36 permit for selling consumer fireworks within the municipality. A municipality that  
37 chooses to issue municipal permits under this subsection shall notify the Office of the  
38 State Fire Marshal at least 60 days prior to the initiation of its permitting program for the  
39 sale of consumer fireworks. A municipal permit may not be issued unless:

- 40 A. The applicant is 21 years of age or older;

1           B. The applicant applies for a permit under this subsection on a form prescribed by  
2           the commissioner;

3           C. The applicant possesses the federal permit required under subsection 1, paragraph  
4           A;

5           D. The applicant complies with the provisions of subsection 4; and

6           E. The application is approved by the municipality's police chief, fire chief and code  
7           enforcement officer if those positions exist.

8           A municipality may require a reasonable fee for a permit issued under this subsection. A  
9           person holding a permit issued by a municipality under this subsection may not sell  
10           consumer fireworks unless the person satisfies all the requirements of subsection 1.

11           **3. State license.** The commissioner may issue a license to sell consumer fireworks  
12           to an applicant who:

13           A. Is 21 years of age or older;

14           B. Possesses the permits required under subsection 1, paragraphs A and C;

15           C. Complies with the provisions of subsection 4; and

16           D. Has not been convicted of an offense or violated a state, federal or municipal law,  
17           rule or regulation involving fireworks or explosives within the 2 years prior to the  
18           application.

19           The commissioner shall charge a fee of \$1,500 for a license under this subsection. The  
20           term of a license is one year. A separate license is required for each location at which an  
21           applicant seeks to sell consumer fireworks. Fees collected under this subsection must be  
22           deposited in a nonlapsing account of the Office of the State Fire Marshal to be used for  
23           the purpose of enforcing this section.

24           **4. Storage and handling.** A person authorized to sell consumer fireworks under  
25           subsection 1 may store and sell the fireworks only in a permanent, fixed, stand-alone  
26           building dedicated solely to the storage and sale of consumer fireworks in accordance  
27           with this subsection.

28           A. The building must be constructed, maintained and operated, and all consumer  
29           fireworks must be stored, in compliance with the requirements of National Fire  
30           Protection Association Standard 1124, as adopted by the Office of the State Fire  
31           Marshal, relevant building codes, zoning ordinances and other municipal ordinances.

32           B. The building may not be less than 60 feet from another permanent building and  
33           may not be less than 300 feet from a structure at which gasoline, propane or other  
34           flammable material is sold or dispensed.

35           C. Cigarettes, tobacco products or lighters or other flame-producing devices may not  
36           be permitted in the building.

37           D. A person under 21 years of age may not be admitted to the building unless  
38           accompanied by a parent or guardian.

1 E. Notwithstanding paragraph D, a person at least 18 years of age may handle and  
2 sell consumer fireworks if the person is under the direct supervision of a person 21  
3 years of age or older.

4 **5. Insurance.** A person authorized to sell consumer fireworks under subsection 1  
5 shall at all times maintain public liability and product liability insurance with minimum  
6 coverage limits of \$2,000,000 to cover the losses, damages or injuries that might ensue to  
7 persons or property as a result of the person selling consumer fireworks.

8 **6. Advertising.** A person may not advertise the sale of consumer fireworks in a way  
9 that is misleading about the conditions under which consumer fireworks may be  
10 purchased or used or about the requirements of this section. An advertisement for the  
11 sale of consumer fireworks must contain the words "Check with your local fire  
12 department to see if consumer fireworks are allowed in your community" in a  
13 conspicuous location and in a consistent font as approved by the commissioner.

14 **7. Civil liability.** A person who violates the provisions of this section is liable in a  
15 civil action for damages for bodily injury or property damage resulting from violation,  
16 and the defenses under Title 14, section 156 or a defense based on assumption of risk  
17 may not be used by the person.

18 **8. Restrictions on use of consumer fireworks.** The use of consumer fireworks is  
19 governed by this subsection.

20 A. Consumer fireworks may be used between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m.,  
21 except that on the following dates they may be used between the hours of 9:00 a.m.  
22 and 12:30 a.m. the following day:

23 (1) July 4th;

24 (2) December 31st; and

25 (3) The weekends immediately before and after July 4th and December 31st.

26 B. A person may use consumer fireworks only on that person's property or on the  
27 property of a person who has consented to the use of consumer fireworks on that  
28 property.

29 A person who violates this subsection commits a civil violation for which a fine of not  
30 less than \$50 and not more than \$500, plus court costs, may be adjudged for any one  
31 offense.

32 **9. Enforcement against licensees.** The commissioner, a state law enforcement  
33 officer, a municipal law enforcement officer, a code enforcement officer or a fire safety  
34 official may petition the Superior Court or District Court to seize or remove at the  
35 expense of a licensee consumer fireworks sold, offered for sale, stored, possessed or used  
36 in violation of this section. The commissioner may immediately suspend a license  
37 granted under subsection 3 for a violation of this section. A person whose license is  
38 suspended under this subsection must receive a hearing within 10 days of the suspension  
39 under Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 4. A person whose license is suspended under this  
40 subsection may not receive a license under subsection 3 for a period of at least one year  
41 from the date of suspension.

1           **10. Disclosures to customers.** A person authorized to sell consumer fireworks shall  
2 provide to the purchaser at the point of sale written guidelines describing the safe and  
3 proper use of consumer fireworks. The guidelines must also include the following  
4 statements in a conspicuous location: "MAINE LAW EXPRESSLY PROHIBITS  
5 PERSONS UNDER 21 YEARS OF AGE FROM PURCHASING, POSSESSING OR  
6 USING CONSUMER FIREWORKS" and "FURNISHING CONSUMER FIREWORKS  
7 TO PERSONS UNDER 21 YEARS OF AGE IS A CRIMINAL OFFENSE IN MAINE."  
8 Such guidelines must be published or approved by the commissioner prior to distribution.

9           **11. Prohibited acts.** This subsection governs prohibited acts.

10           A. A person may not sell consumer fireworks within the State unless that person  
11 holds a valid license or is an employee or agent of a person that holds a valid license.

12           B. A person licensed to sell consumer fireworks under this chapter may not sell  
13 consumer fireworks to a person under 21 years of age or who appears to be under the  
14 influence of alcohol or drugs.

15           C. Except as specifically allowed under subsection 4, paragraph E, a person may not  
16 knowingly:

17                   (1) Procure, or in any way aid or assist in procuring, furnish, give, sell or deliver  
18 consumer fireworks for or to a person under 21 years of age; or

19                   (2) Allow a person under 21 years of age under that person's control or in a place  
20 under that person's control to possess or use consumer fireworks.

21           D. A person under 21 years of age may not purchase, use or possess consumer  
22 fireworks within the State or present to a person licensed to sell consumer fireworks  
23 any evidence of age that is false, fraudulent or not actually the person's own for the  
24 purpose of purchasing consumer fireworks.

25           It is an affirmative defense to prosecution for a violation of paragraph B or C that the  
26 licensee sold consumer fireworks to a person under 21 years of age in reasonable reliance  
27 upon fraudulent proof of age presented by the purchaser.

28           **12. Violations.** The following penalties apply to violations of subsection 11.

29           A. A person who violates subsection 11, paragraph A, B or C commits a Class D  
30 crime. If the violation involves furnishing consumer fireworks to a minor, a fine of  
31 not less than \$500 must be imposed in addition to any term of imprisonment the court  
32 may impose. If a person violates subsection 11, paragraph A, B or C after having  
33 been convicted of violating the same paragraph one or more times within the previous  
34 6-year period, a fine of not less than \$1,000 must be imposed in addition to any term  
35 of imprisonment the court may impose.

36           B. A person who violates subsection 11, paragraph D commits a civil violation for  
37 which a fine of not less than \$200 and not more than \$400 must be imposed. If the  
38 person has been previously convicted of violating subsection 11, paragraph D one or  
39 more times, a fine of not less than \$300 and not more than \$600 must be imposed.

40           Fines collected under this subsection must be deposited in a nonlapsing account of the  
41 Office of the State Fire Marshal to be used for the purpose of enforcing this section.

1           **13. Annual report to the Legislature.** Beginning in 2013, the Office of the State  
 2 Fire Marshal shall submit to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having  
 3 jurisdiction over criminal justice and public safety matters a written report regarding the  
 4 sale and use of consumer fireworks in this State. The report must, at a minimum, include  
 5 information on the issuance and oversight of licenses to sell consumer fireworks, reported  
 6 consumer fireworks-related injuries, reported consumer fireworks-related fires or other  
 7 property damage and municipal restrictions or prohibitions on the sale or use of consumer  
 8 fireworks. The report must be submitted not later than March 1st each year.

9           **Sec. 6. 8 MRSA §236,** as enacted by PL 1999, c. 671, §12, is repealed and the  
 10 following enacted in its place:

11           **§236. Adoption of rules**

12           **1. Routine technical rules.** The commissioner may adopt rules concerning the sale,  
 13 use, storage, transportation and display of consumer fireworks, fireworks and special  
 14 effect pyrotechnics and to carry out the purposes of this chapter. Rules adopted pursuant  
 15 to this subsection are routine technical rules pursuant to Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter  
 16 2-A.

17           **2. Major substantive rules.** After December 31, 2013, the commissioner may adopt  
 18 rules governing the reporting of consumer fireworks-related injuries by health care  
 19 providers. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are major substantive rules pursuant  
 20 to Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

21           **Sec. 7. Method for reporting data regarding consumer fireworks-related**  
 22 **injuries.** The Office of the State Fire Marshal shall work with the statewide associations  
 23 representing hospitals and physicians to develop a method for health care providers to  
 24 collect and report voluntarily to the Office of the State Fire Marshal data regarding  
 25 injuries related to consumer fireworks as defined in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 8,  
 26 section 221-A. This data may not include personally identifying information on persons  
 27 treated, but may include information on the age of the person treated, the type and  
 28 severity of the injury and, if known, the type of consumer firework involved in the injury.

29           **Sec. 8. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and  
 30 allocations are made.

31           **PUBLIC SAFETY, DEPARTMENT OF**

32           **Fire Marshal - Office of 0327**

33 Initiative: Provides appropriation and allocation for 2 Public Safety Inspector II positions  
 34 and related costs to inspect entities licensed to sell consumer fireworks.

35	<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2011-12</b>	<b>2012-13</b>
36	Personal Services	\$121,374	\$129,518
37	All Other	\$16,200	\$16,200
38	Capital Expenditures	\$50,000	\$0
39			
40	GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$187,574	\$145,718

1	<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS</b>	<b>2011-12</b>	<b>2012-13</b>
2	POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	2.000	2.000
3	Personal Services	\$15,000	\$15,000
4			
5	<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL</b>	<u>\$15,000</u>	<u>\$15,000</u>
6			

7 **SUMMARY**

8 This amendment makes the following changes to the bill.

9 1. It eliminates the emergency preamble and emergency clause.

10 2. It amends the definition of "consumer fireworks" to include only products tested  
11 and certified by a 3rd-party testing laboratory.

12 3. It excludes missile-type rockets, helicopters and aerial spinners and sky rockets  
13 and bottle rockets from the definition of "consumer fireworks."

14 4. It removes "allow" and "or possession" from the provision that states a  
15 municipality may adopt an ordinance to allow or prohibit the sale, use or possession of  
16 consumer fireworks, thereby requiring municipalities that want to prohibit or restrict the  
17 sale or use of consumer fireworks in the municipality to adopt an ordinance.  
18 Municipalities that adopt such ordinances must provide the Office of the State Fire  
19 Marshal with a copy of the restriction or prohibition within 60 days. Possession of  
20 consumer fireworks is otherwise allowed in all municipalities.

21 5. It provides that a municipality may require that a person obtain a municipal permit  
22 for selling consumer fireworks within the municipality. A municipality that chooses to  
23 issue municipal permits must notify the Office of the State Fire Marshal prior to initiating  
24 its permitting program.

25 6. It provides that where municipalities do not adopt an ordinance to restrict or  
26 prohibit the sale of consumer fireworks and do not choose to issue municipal permits for  
27 the sale of consumer fireworks, the sale of consumer fireworks is allowed in accordance  
28 with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 8, section 223-A. A municipal permit is not  
29 required in this circumstance.

30 7. It provides that a state license is valid for one year, costs \$1,500, and funds  
31 enforcement through the Office of the State Fire Marshal. A separate license is required  
32 for each location at which an applicant seeks to sell fireworks.

33 8. It requires that consumer fireworks be sold only in a permanent, fixed, stand-alone  
34 building dedicated solely to the sale of consumer fireworks and provides specific  
35 requirements for the building.

36 9. It requires a person authorized to sell consumer fireworks to maintain public  
37 liability and product liability insurance with minimum coverage limits of \$2,000,000.

38 10. It requires advertising to contain the words "Check with your local fire  
39 department to see if consumer fireworks are allowed in your community" in a  
40 conspicuous location and in a consistent font as approved by the commissioner.

1           11. It restricts the use of consumer fireworks to between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and  
2 10:00 p.m. except that they may be used between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 12:30 a.m.  
3 on July 4th, December 31st and the weekends immediately before and after those dates.

4           12. It restricts the use of consumer fireworks to the user's property or the property of  
5 a consenting person.

6           13. It makes a violation of restrictions on the use of consumer fireworks a civil  
7 violation for which a fine of not less than \$50 and not more than \$500 plus court costs  
8 may be adjudged.

9           14. It states that the consumer fireworks of a licensee may be seized or removed at  
10 the licensee's expense if they are offered for sale, stored, possessed or used in violation of  
11 Title 8, section 223-A.

12           15. It changes the safety information provision to disclosures to customers and  
13 clarifies that a person authorized to sell consumer fireworks shall provide the consumer  
14 with written guidelines describing safe and proper use of consumer fireworks. It also  
15 requires specific statements that the sale of consumer fireworks to persons under 21 years  
16 of age is prohibited be included in the guidelines.

17           16. It moves and adds language to the subsection that prohibits the sale of fireworks  
18 to a person under 21 years of age or who appears to be under the influence of drugs or  
19 alcohol to a subsection governing prohibited acts. It adds that it is an affirmative defense  
20 to prosecution for a violation of the prohibition against selling fireworks to a person  
21 under 21 years of age that the licensee sold consumer fireworks to a person under 21  
22 years of age in reasonable reliance upon fraudulent proof of age presented by the  
23 purchaser. It adds that a person may not sell consumer fireworks in this State unless that  
24 person holds a valid license or is an employee or agent of a person that holds a valid  
25 license.

26           17. It provides that a person who sells consumer fireworks without a valid license or  
27 furnishes consumer fireworks to a person under 21 years of age or a licensee who sells  
28 consumer fireworks to a person under 21 years of age or an intoxicated person commits a  
29 Class D crime. A fine of \$500 or more is imposed if the violation involves furnishing  
30 fireworks to a minor. A fine of \$1,000 or more is imposed for a person who has been  
31 convicted of the same offense one or more times in the previous 6 years.

32           18. It provides that a fine of between \$200 and \$400 may be imposed on a person  
33 under 21 years of age who purchases, uses or possesses consumer fireworks within the  
34 State or presents to a consumer fireworks licensee false or fraudulent evidence of age for  
35 the purpose of purchasing consumer fireworks.

36           19. It provides that the Office of the State Fire Marshal shall submit a report to the  
37 joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over criminal justice and  
38 public safety matters regarding the sale and use of consumer fireworks, including  
39 fireworks-related injuries and fires, by March 1st of each year beginning in 2013.

40           20. It provides that after December 31, 2013, the Commissioner of Public Safety  
41 may adopt rules regarding consumer fireworks-related injuries reporting by health care  
42 providers. These rules are major substantive rules.

