



131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 647

H.P. 424

House of Representatives, February 14, 2023

An Act to Amend the Life Safety Code Regarding When Sprinkler Systems May Be Shut Off

Reference to the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative GEIGER of Rockland.
Cosponsored by Senator BEEBE-CENTER of Knox.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 25 MRSA §2452, first ¶**, as repealed and replaced by PL 2011, c. 691, Pt.
3 A, §25, is amended to read:

4 The Commissioner of Public Safety shall adopt and may amend rules governing the
5 safety to life from fire in or around all buildings or other structures and mass outdoor
6 gatherings, as defined in Title 22, section 1601, subsection 2, within the commissioner's
7 jurisdiction. Automatic sprinkler systems may not be required in existing noncommercial
8 places of assembly. Noncommercial places of assembly include those facilities used for
9 such purposes as deliberation, worship, entertainment, amusement or awaiting
10 transportation that have a capacity of 100 to 300 persons. Automatic sprinkler systems
11 may not be required in existing commercial places of assembly that are open for no more
12 than 50 days per calendar year. "Commercial places of assembly" includes bars with live
13 entertainment, dance halls, nightclubs, assembly halls with large open areas in which
14 patrons stand or sit, commonly referred to as "festival seating," and restaurants. Once
15 installed, an automatic sprinkler system in a building that is within 25 feet of another
16 building may not be shut off for a reason other than short-term maintenance or a repair
17 requiring the system to be shut off. Rules adopted pursuant to this section are routine
18 technical rules, except that rules pertaining to fire sprinklers are major substantive rules,
19 both of which are defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

20 **SUMMARY**

21 This bill amends the provisions of law giving the Commissioner of Public Safety
22 authority to adopt or amend rules governing safety to life by prohibiting shutting off an
23 automatic sprinkler system in a building that is within 25 feet of another building except
24 for short-term maintenance or a repair requiring the system to be shut off.