An Act to Increase the Liability of Parents and Legal Guardians for Damage by Children

Reference to the Committee on Judiciary suggested and ordered printed.

Presented by Representative RUDNICKI of Fairfield.
Cosponsored by Representative: DRINKWATER of Milford.
Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 14 MRSA §304, as enacted by PL 1995, c. 694, Pt. C, §1 and affected by Pt. E, §2, is amended to read:

§304. Liability of parents or legal guardians for damage by children

If a minor who is between 7 years of age or older and under 18 years of age willfully or maliciously causes damage to property or injury to a person and the minor would have been liable for the damage or injury if the minor were an adult and the minor lives with that minor's parents or legal guardians, the parents or legal guardians are jointly and severally liable with the minor for that damage or injury in an amount not exceeding $800 $6,000. This section does not relieve the minor from personal liability for that damage or injury.

SUMMARY

This bill amends the current law setting the maximum amount of damages for which the parents or legal guardians of a minor who is 7 years of age or older and under 18 years of age may be liable for willful or malicious acts of that minor that cause damage to property or injury to a person by changing the maximum possible amount of damages from $800 to $6,000.