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Legislative Document

No. 1594

H.P. 1183

House of Representatives, April 27, 2021

An Act To Suspend the Collection of the Container Fee for Hand Sanitizer and Sanitizing Wipes during the COVID-19 Pandemic

(AFTER DEADLINE)

(EMERGENCY)

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 205.

Reference to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources suggested and ordered printed.

ROBERT B. HUNT

R(+ B. Hunt

Clerk

Presented by Representative TEPLER of Topsham.

Cosponsored by Representatives: McCREA of Fort Fairfield, OSHER of Orono, PLUECKER of Warren.

1 **Emergency preamble.** Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not 2 become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and 3 Whereas, the spread of the novel coronavirus disease referred to as COVID-19 has 4 created a public health emergency; and 5 Whereas, in response to the outbreak of COVID-19, the World Health Organization has declared a pandemic, the President of the United States has declared a national 6 emergency and the Governor of Maine has declared a state of civil emergency; and 7 8 Whereas, proper sanitation and hygiene is an important tool to prevent the spread of 9 COVID-19; and 10 Whereas, the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 36, section 4941, subsection 1 has 11 imposed a 15¢ container fee on sales of hand sanitizer and sanitizing wipes; and 12 Whereas, immediate enactment of this legislation is necessary to minimize additional costs to residents of the State during the COVID-19 pandemic; and 13 14 Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within 15 the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as 16 immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, 17 therefore, 18 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows: 19 Sec. 1. Suspension of the pesticide container fee for certain products during 20 the declared state of emergency. For the duration of the state of emergency declared pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 37-B, section 742 as a result of the COVID-21 19 pandemic, retailers within the State may not collect or remit to the State Tax Assessor 22 23 the fee imposed on the sale of pesticide containers by Title 36, section 4941, subsection 1 for sales of hand sanitizer or sanitizing wipes in the State. 24 25 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation 26 takes effect when approved. 27 **SUMMARY** 28 This bill suspends the 15¢ container fee on the sale of hand sanitizer and sanitizing 29 wipes for the duration of the state of emergency declared as a result of the COVID-19 30 pandemic.