

PLEASE NOTE: Legislative Information **cannot** perform research, provide legal advice, or interpret Maine law. For legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.

An Act To Eliminate Certain Restrictions on the Installation of Chimneys and Equipment

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

Sec. 1. 25 MRSA §2465, sub-§1-A, as amended by PL 2009, c. 250, §1, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

1-A. Routine technical rules. The Commissioner of Public Safety shall adopt rules pertaining to the construction, installation, maintenance and inspection of chimneys, fireplaces, vents and solid fuel burning appliances. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection may include rules pertaining to maintenance and inspections, except as provided in subsection 1-B. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection may not prohibit:

A. The continued use of an existing connection of a solid fuel burning appliance to a chimney flue to which another appliance burning oil or solid fuel is connected for any chimney existing and in use prior to February 2, 1998 as long as:

- (1) Sufficient draft is available for each appliance;
- (2) The chimney is lined and structurally intact; and
- (3) A carbon monoxide detector is installed in the building near a bedroom; or

B. The connection of a solid fuel burning appliance to a chimney flue to which another appliance burning oil or solid fuel is connected for any chimney existing and in use on or after February 2, 1998 as long as:

- (1) Sufficient draft is available for each appliance;
- (2) The chimney is lined and structurally intact;
- (3) A carbon monoxide detector is installed in the building near a bedroom;
- (4) The solid fuel burning appliance has been listed by Underwriters Laboratories or by an independent, nationally recognized testing laboratory or other testing laboratory approved by the Maine Fuel Board, established under Title 5, section 12004-A, subsection 49; and
- (5) The solid fuel burning appliance is installed in accordance with the manufacturer's installation specifications.

Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375,

subchapter 2-A.

Sec. 2. 32 MRSA §18107, as amended by PL 2009, c. 652, Pt. A, §46, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

§ 18107. Installations to conform to standards

1. Board standards and rules. Installation of oil, solid fuel, propane and natural gas burning equipment and chimneys may not be made in this State unless the installation complies with all the standards and rules adopted by the board. These standards and rules may not prohibit:

A. The continued use of an existing connection of a solid fuel burning appliance to a chimney flue to which another appliance burning oil or solid fuel is connected for any chimney existing and in use prior to February 2, 1998 as long as:

- (1) Sufficient draft is available for each appliance;
- (2) The chimney is lined and structurally intact; and
- (3) A carbon monoxide detector is installed in the building near a bedroom; or

B. The connection of a solid fuel burning appliance to a chimney flue to which another appliance burning oil or solid fuel is connected for any chimney existing and in use on or after February 2, 1998 as long as:

- (1) Sufficient draft is available for each appliance;
- (2) The chimney is lined and structurally intact;
- (3) A carbon monoxide detector is installed in the building near a bedroom;
- (4) The solid fuel burning appliance has been listed by Underwriters Laboratories or by an independent, nationally recognized testing laboratory or other testing laboratory approved by the board; and
- (5) The solid fuel burning appliance is installed in accordance with the manufacturer's installation specifications.

2. Technician responsibility for ascertaining total conformance to the standards and rules. Whenever oil, solid fuel, propane and natural gas burning equipment, accessory equipment or its installation are separately contracted, the master oil and solid fuel burning technician or the propane and natural gas technician in charge of the installation is responsible for ascertaining total conformance to the standards and rules adopted by the board.

3. Proof of license. Whenever a state fuel inspector authorized under section 18110 finds a

person installing or assisting in an oil, propane, natural gas or solid fuel burning appliance installation, that person shall, on request of the state fuel inspector, provide evidence of being properly licensed when required by this chapter and, if unable to provide the evidence, shall furnish the state fuel inspector with that person's full name and address and, if applicable, the full name and address of the master oil and solid fuel burning technician or the propane and natural gas technician in charge.

Sec. 3. 32 MRSA §18123, sub-§2, as amended by PL 2009, c. 652, Pt. A, §47, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

2. Rules. The board may adopt rules commensurate with the authority vested in it by this chapter, including, but not limited to, rules adopting technical standards for the proper installation and servicing of oil, solid fuel, propane and natural gas burning equipment. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection may not prohibit:

A. The continued use of an existing connection of a solid fuel burning appliance to a chimney flue to which another appliance burning oil or solid fuel is connected for any chimney existing and in use prior to February 2, 1998 as long as:

- (1) Sufficient draft is available for each appliance;
- (2) The chimney is lined and structurally intact; and
- (3) A carbon monoxide detector is installed in the building near a bedroom; or

B. The connection of a solid fuel burning appliance to a chimney flue to which another appliance burning oil or solid fuel is connected for any chimney existing and in use on or after February 2, 1998 as long as:

- (1) Sufficient draft is available for each appliance;
- (2) The chimney is lined and structurally intact;
- (3) A carbon monoxide detector is installed in the building near a bedroom;
- (4) The solid fuel burning appliance has been listed by Underwriters Laboratories or by an independent, nationally recognized testing laboratory or other testing laboratory approved by the board; and
- (5) The solid fuel burning appliance is installed in accordance with the manufacturer's installation specifications.

The board may adopt by rule national or other technical standards, in whole or in part, that it considers necessary to carry out the provisions of this chapter. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined by Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

PUBLIC Law, Chapter 225, LD 124, 125th Maine State Legislature
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Effective 90 days following adjournment of the 125th Legislature, First Regular Session, unless otherwise indicated.