



127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2015

Legislative Document

No. 1135

S.P. 404

In Senate, March 31, 2015

An Act Regarding the Requirements for Sprinkler Systems in Townhouses

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Heather J.R. Priest".

HEATHER J.R. PRIEST
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator LANGLEY of Hancock.
Cosponsored by Representative POULIOT of Augusta and
Senators: CUSHING of Penobscot, DUTREMBLE of York, MASON of Androscoggin,
WHITTEMORE of Somerset, Representative: MAKER of Calais.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 25 MRSA §2463, 4th ¶**, as amended by PL 1997, c. 728, §26, is further
3 amended to read:

4 The Commissioner of Public Safety or the commissioner's designee shall inspect all
5 systems installed pursuant to this section and shall approve all systems that comply with
6 this section, except that when the hotel is located in a municipality that has a municipal
7 fire department or incorporated volunteer fire department, that department is responsible
8 for the inspection and approval of the system, unless the Commissioner of Public Safety
9 agrees to undertake that responsibility. The Office of the State Fire Marshal shall for the
10 purposes of inspecting sprinkler system plans for townhouses constructed after January 1,
11 2016 approve all such plans that comply with this section.

12 **Sec. 2. 25 MRSA §2463**, as amended by PL 1997, c. 728, §26, is further amended
13 by adding after the 6th paragraph a new paragraph to read:

14 The term "townhouse" means a single-family dwelling unit constructed in a group of
15 3 or more attached units in which each unit extends from foundation to roof, with either a
16 yard or public way on at least 2 sides of the unit.

17 **SUMMARY**

18 This bill requires the Office of the State Fire Marshal to inspect and approve all
19 sprinkler system plans for townhouses constructed after January 1, 2016. The bill
20 establishes a definition for the term "townhouse" that mirrors the definition used in the
21 International Residential Code.