

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 Reduce High-technology Tax Evasion and Theft

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

Sec. 1. 17-A MRSA §909 is enacted to read:

§ 909. Possession or transfer of automated sales suppression device

1. A person is guilty of possession or transfer of an automated sales suppression device if:

A. The person knowingly possesses, purchases or owns any automated sales suppression device or phantom-ware. Violation of this paragraph is a Class D crime; or

B. The person knowingly manufactures, sells, installs or transfers any automated sales suppression device or phantom-ware or possesses, purchases or owns with the intent to sell, install or transfer any automated sales suppression device or phantom-ware. Violation of this paragraph is a Class C crime.

2. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Automated sales suppression device" means a computer software program, which may be stored on magnetic or optical media, accessed through the Internet or accessed through any other means, that is designed or used to falsify the electronic records of an electronic cash register or other point-of-sale system, including, but not limited to, transaction data and transaction reports.

B. "Electronic cash register" means a device that keeps a register or supporting documents through the means of an electronic device or computer system designed to record transaction data for the purpose of computing, compiling or processing retail sales transaction data.

C. "Phantom-ware" means a hidden, preinstalled or installed programming option embedded in the operating system of an electronic cash register or hardwired into the electronic cash register that can be used to create a virtual 2nd cash register or to eliminate or manipulate transaction records, which may or may not be preserved in digital formats, can represent either the true or the manipulated records of transactions in the electronic cash register and is intended to falsify the electronic records of an electronic cash register or other point-of-sale system.

D. "Transaction data" includes a description of items purchased by a customer; the price for each item; a taxability determination for each item; a segregated tax amount for each taxed item; the amount of cash or credit tendered; the net amount returned to the customer in change; the date and time of the purchase; the name, address and identification number of the vendor; and the receipt or invoice number of the transaction.

E. "Transaction report" means a report that includes, but is not limited to, sales, taxes collected, methods of payment and voided sales at an electronic cash register that is printed on cash register tape at the end of a day or shift or a report that includes every action at an electronic cash register that is stored electronically.

Effective 90 days following adjournment of the 125th
Legislature, Second Regular Session, unless otherwise indicated.