

§1555-D. Illegal delivery of tobacco products

A person may not knowingly transport or cause to be delivered to a person in this State a tobacco product purchased from a person who is not licensed as a tobacco retailer in this State, except that this provision does not apply to the transportation or delivery of tobacco products to a licensed tobacco distributor or tobacco retailer. [PL 2009, c. 398, §4 (AMD); PL 2009, c. 398, §6 (AFF).]

1. Lists.

[PL 2011, c. 524, §1 (RP).]

2. Penalty. The following penalties apply for violation of this section.

A. A person who violates this section commits a civil violation for which a fine of not less than \$50 nor more than \$1500 may be adjudged for each violation. A fine imposed under this paragraph may not be suspended. [PL 2003, c. 444, §2 (NEW).]

B. An employer of a person who, while working and within the scope of that person's employment, violates this section commits a civil violation for which a fine of not less than \$50 nor more than \$1,500 may be adjudged for each violation. A fine imposed under this paragraph may not be suspended. [PL 2003, c. 444, §2 (NEW).]

[PL 2003, c. 444, §2 (NEW).]

3. Enforcement. The Attorney General may bring an action to enforce this section in District Court or Superior Court and may seek injunctive relief, including a preliminary or final injunction, and fines, penalties and equitable relief and may seek to prevent or restrain actions in violation of this section by any person or any person controlling such person. In addition, a violation of this section is a violation of the Maine Unfair Trade Practices Act.

[PL 2003, c. 444, §2 (NEW).]

4. Affirmative defense. It is an affirmative defense to a prosecution under this section that a person who transported tobacco products or caused tobacco products to be delivered reasonably relied on licensing information provided by the Attorney General under this section.

[PL 2003, c. 444, §2 (NEW).]

5. Rulemaking. The department shall adopt rules to implement this section. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

[PL 2003, c. 444, §2 (NEW).]

6. Forfeiture. Any tobacco product sold or attempted to be sold in a delivery sale that does not meet the requirements of this section is deemed to be contraband and is subject to forfeiture in the same manner as and in accordance with the provisions of Title 36, section 4372-A.

[PL 2003, c. 444, §2 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 444, §2 (NEW). PL 2009, c. 398, §4 (AMD). PL 2009, c. 398, §6 (AFF). PL 2011, c. 524, §1 (AMD).

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