

# New Law Provides Penalty For Possessing Milk Cases

HARRISBURG — You see them many places — in garages, basements, trucks, back of motorcycles, marinas, college dormitories, just name it. They are the colorful and unfortunately useful milk cases used by dairies to deliver milk to stores, restaurants, etc.

But, using them without permission is illegal, can cost the user a big fine or jail sentence if convicted.

Governor Robert Casey signed legislation on July 9, which becomes effective October 7, stating that any person who is in possession of a milk case without permission "commits a summary offense and shall, upon conviction, be sentenced to pay a fine not exceeding \$300 or to imprisonment for more than 90 days."

However, there is a "grace period" of 60 days — that means December 6 — to permit those

who have cases in their possession to return them WITHOUT PENALTY. That means cases may be returned to stores that sell the milk from the dairy named on the case, or to the dairy itself, without any fine or conviction. After that time legal action will be taken.

Why was this law passed?

"The milk industry in Pennsylvania every year loses milk cases valued at many millions of dollars," said Earl Fink, Executive Vice President of the Harrisburg based Pennsylvania Association of Milk Dealers. "This ultimately must raise the price of milk to the consumers of Pennsylvania, which means those who do not illegally take these cases must help pay the bill. The industry regrets this action had to be taken, but the costs are prohibitive and keep increasing year after year."

This same legislation, known as Act 37 of 1987, also provides an

identical penalty for the illegal use of food store shopping carts, bread trays, laundry carts and egg baskets. These industries also lose a phenomenal number of this expensive equipment, according to the milk dealer spokesman, which also is reflected in prices to the

consumer. The 60-day grace period also applies for the return of these items.

"College students are big violators," Fink added, "as they use them for shelves and supports in their dormitories. Marinas also use many cases, as do many people

who use trucks and keep supplies in these cases. They also are seen at open air markets and used by street vendors. In the past, cases have not only been used but also sold at flea markets. These will be checked after the grace period and punitive action will be requested."

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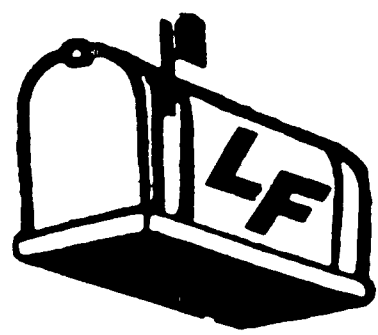
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15	4.35	8.70	10.35
16	4.64	9.28	11.04
17	4.93	9.86	11.73
18	5.22	10.44	12.42
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1	2	3	4	5
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