

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

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ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 261

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H.P. 227

House of Representatives, January 29, 1985

Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative Jacques of Waterville.

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STATE OF MAINE

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD  
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-FIVE

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AN ACT Relating to Diesels and  
Diesel-electric Locomotives Operating  
in Reverse or Backup Positions.

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

23 MRSa §4218, sub-§12, as enacted by PL 1977, c. 341, §2, is amended to read:

12. Diesels or diesel-electric may not operate in reverse or backup position. No railroad corporation operating diesel or diesel-electric locomotives in the State ~~shall~~ may be permitted to operate ~~such those~~ locomotives in reverse or backup position on any passenger or freight train on any main line or branch line, except that ~~such the~~ locomotives may be operated in reverse in emergencies, while doing switching operations, ~~while operating turn-around service,~~ and except where no facilities are available for turning ~~such the~~ locomotives at the point of departure. Locomotives operating in reverse as a result

1 of emergencies, or unavailable facilities to turn the  
2 locomotive at point of departure, shall be turned at  
3 the first available location where these facilities  
4 exist. Any railroad corporation violating this sub-  
5 section shall be punished by a fine of \$100 for each  
6 violation.

7 STATEMENT OF FACT

8 The unnecessary practice of operating locomotives  
9 used in road service in reverse or backup position is  
10 both unsafe and unhealthy. Due to the construction of  
11 most locomotives used in road service, the visibility  
12 of the operator of the locomotive is highly re-  
13 stricted when running the locomotive in reverse, as  
14 to viewing the track, block signals, highway cross-  
15 ings, etc. Additionally, fumes from diesel engines  
16 often seep into the cab of the locomotive when run-  
17 ning in reverse, creating an unhealthy condition for  
18 employees required to ride in the locomotive. It is  
19 the purpose of this bill to correct this situation.

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