

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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114th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION - 1989

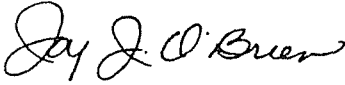
Legislative Document

No. 1333

S.P. 491

In Senate, April 25, 1989

Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.


JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator BRANNIGAN of Cumberland.

Cosponsored by Senator COLLINS of Aroostook, Representative WEBSTER of Cape Elizabeth and Representative ROLDE of York.

STATE OF MAINE

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

An Act to Mandate the Use of Seat Belts.



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

3 **29 MRSA §1368-D** is enacted to read:

5 **§1368-D. Use of seat belts**

7 **1. Mandatory use.** The driver and every passenger shall
9 wear a properly secured seat belt while the motor vehicle is in
operation, provided that the vehicle:

11 **A.** Was manufactured or assembled on or after January 1,
13 1966; and

15 **B.** Is required by federal law or regulation to be equipped
with seat belts at the time of manufacture or assembly.

17 **2. Duty of driver and passenger.** The driver is responsible
19 for assuring that the driver and each passenger below the age of
21 18 years are properly secured by a seat belt while the vehicle is
being operated. A passenger who has attained the age of 18 years
is responsible for complying with this section.

23 **3. Exceptions.** The requirements of subsection 1 do not
25 apply to:

27 **A.** A passenger engaged in direct life-saving patient care
activities, such as cardiopulmonary resuscitation; or

29 **B.** A rear seat passenger when all other seating positions
31 equipped with seat belts are occupied.

33 **4. Violations.** Violation of this section is a civil
violation for which a forfeiture of \$25 for the first violation
35 and \$50 for each subsequent violation shall be adjudged.

37 Conduct permitted by section 1368-B and 1368-C shall not give
rise to an enforcement action under this section.

39 **5. Grace period.** A person stopped for a violation of this
41 section prior to December 1, 1989 shall be issued a warning.

43 **STATEMENT OF FACT**

45
47 This bill requires drivers and passengers of motor vehicles
to wear seat belts if their vehicles were equipped with seat
49 belts by the manufacturer. Failure to wear a seat belt carries a
\$25 fine for a first offense and a \$50 fine for subsequent
offenses.

1

3 Ambulance personnel need not wear seat belts while they are
5 engaged in direct life-saving patient care. A rear seat
passenger need not wear a seat belt if all available seating
positions equipped with seat belts are occupied.

7

A grace period will be in effect until December 1, 1989.

9

11 Seat belts reduce by 1/2 the chance of serious injury in an
13 accident. Motor vehicle crashes account for over 200 deaths per
year in Maine. Nationally, motor vehicle crashes result in more
cases of paraplegia and quadraplegia than all other causes
combined and are major causes of epilepsy and brain damage.