

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 124th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2009

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Legislative Document

No. 356

S.P. 120

In Senate, February 5, 2009

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### An Act To Increase the Safety of Automobile Drivers

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Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN  
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator BLISS of Cumberland.  
Cosponsored by Representative MORRISON of South Portland and  
Representatives: DILL of Cape Elizabeth, FLAHERTY of Scarborough.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 29-A MRSA §2081, sub-§3-A,** as amended by PL 2007, c. 60, §1, is  
3 further amended to read:

4 **3-A. Other passengers 18 years of age and older; operators.** When a person 18  
5 years of age or older is a passenger in a vehicle that is required by the United States  
6 Department of Transportation to be equipped with seat belts, the passenger must be  
7 properly secured in a seat belt. Each such passenger is responsible for wearing a seat belt  
8 as required by this subsection, and a passenger that fails to wear a seat belt as required by  
9 this subsection is subject to the enforcement provisions of subsection 4. The operator of a  
10 vehicle that is required by the United States Department of Transportation to be equipped  
11 with seat belts must be properly secured in the operator's seat belt. Violation of this  
12 subsection is a traffic infraction for which a fine of \$50 for the first offense, \$125 for the  
13 2nd offense and \$250 for the 3rd and subsequent offenses must be imposed. A fine  
14 imposed under this subsection may not be suspended by the court. A vehicle, the contents  
15 of a vehicle, the driver of or a passenger in a vehicle may not be inspected or searched  
16 solely because of a violation of this subsection.

17 **SUMMARY**

18 This bill requires an operator of a vehicle to be properly secured in the operator's seat  
19 belt instead of simply secured. This requires the chest strap to be used by operators in  
20 addition to the lap belt.