

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SECOND LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 822

S. P. 274

In Senate, February 2, 1965

Referred to the Committee on Transportation, sent down for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Secretary

Presented by Senator Letourneau of York.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SIXTY-FIVE

AN ACT Establishing Minimum Safety Standards for Tires.

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

Sec. 1. R. S., T. 29, § 1371, additional. Title 29 of the Revised Statutes is amended by adding a new section 1371 to read as follows:

§ 1371. Tires

1. **Approval.** No person, firm, association or corporation shall sell, offer or expose for sale, or have in his possession with intent to sell any motor vehicle tire or motorcycle tire which has been manufactured after January 1, 1967, unless such tire is of a type which has been approved by the Chief of the State Police. Included under this section are tires affixed to a motor vehicle or motorcycle when such motor vehicle or motorcycle in its entirety is sold.

2. **Ratings.** The Chief of the State Police shall, prior to July 1, 1966, promulgate and publish various tire and rim size and tire strength ratings for identification purposes. The chief's designation of tire and rim size shall include the acceptable minimum of tire cross-sectional and circumferential dimensions which defines a tire of given tire and rim size, shall state the method of measuring such dimensions, and shall include, as a basis of tests only, a recommended maximum load for each tire and rim size and tire strength rating of a stated inflation pressure in accordance with the provisions of subsection 3.

3. **Minimum requirements.** The chief shall, prior to July 1, 1966, promulgate and publish for various tire and rim sizes and tire strength ratings minimum requirements for original condition blowout resistance according to laboratory performance tests. Such tests shall include tests of the ability of the tire

to resist carcass breakage by forcible penetration of a test plunger and ability to resist continuous speed running.

Requirements to pass such tests shall necessitate that the tire have reasonable margins of blowout safety for each type of test. Such margins for continuous high speed running shall require, at a minimum, satisfactory conditions after a total test mileage of 2,350 miles at speeds of at least 50 miles per hour at recommended inflation pressures and at various loads and overloads up to 140% of the recommended maximum load designated by the chief. Such margins for carcass breakage shall provide for the various tire and rim sizes and tire strength ratings a ratio of carcass breakage resistance to recommended maximum load in excess of 215-inch pounds of breaking energy for each 100 pounds of recommended maximum load when a 1¼ inch diameter plunger is used, and shall exceed this ratio as determined by the chief. The chief shall publish an approved list of tire types and sizes which have met laboratory performance test requirements and he shall determine at regular intervals whether such tire types and sizes continue to meet such laboratory performance test requirements. For purposes of determining the ability of tires to meet test requirements, the chief may accept certified evidence of tests performed by the tire manufacturer and certified by a professional engineer registered under the laws of any state, may employ evidence of design similarity where tires of the same design characteristics are made in many sizes, and shall require independent certified evidence of the passage of laboratory performance tests as necessary. The chief may, for stated cause, withdraw from the approved published list any tire type or size and require independent certified evidence that the performance test requirements have been met prior to replacing it on the list. The chief shall not approve any tire of a stated tire and rim size unless such tire meets minimum dimensional requirements.

4. Penalty. Any person who violates any of the provisions of this section shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$50 or by imprisonment for not more than 15 days, or by both.'

Sec. 2. Effective date. This Act shall take effect on and after January 1, 1967.