

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 145

H. P. 101

House of Representatives, January 12, 1971

Referred to Committee on Judiciary. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

BERTHA W. JOHNSON, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Dyar of Strong.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-ONE

**AN ACT Prohibiting the Turning Back of Speedometers or
Odometers on Motor Vehicles.**

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

R. S., T. 17, § 1609-A, additional. Title 17 of the Revised Statutes is amended by adding a new section 1609-A, to read as follows:

§1609-A. Turning back of speedometers or odometers on motor vehicles

Any person who turns back the speedometer or odometer of any motor vehicle, with intent to misrepresent to a prospective or eventual purchaser the number of miles traveled by any such vehicle, shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$1,000 or by imprisonment for not more than 11 months, or by both.

All motor vehicle dealers shall certify in writing to the purchaser of a used motor vehicle, motor truck or truck-tractor the name and address of the prior owner and shall certify that the mileage shown on the speedometer or odometer is the mileage of the motor vehicle, motor truck or truck-tractor when it was received by said motor vehicle dealer.

STATEMENT OF FACT

It has been found that many dealers in used and new cars are giving a trade-in allowance lower than the suggested book in cars showing high mileage. It has become a practice to turn back the odometer prior to resale which would command a higher price from the would-be purchaser. Due to this situation there is a tendency by owners of high mileage cars to have the odometer turned back by a local garage prior to trade-in to get a better allowance. The buyer of a used car is not getting true value through this practice.