

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTH LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 577

H. P. 442

House of Representatives, February 3, 1971

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

BERTHA W. JOHNSON, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Lewis of Bristol.

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STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-ONE

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**AN ACT Relating to Elderly Persons' Examinations for Motor Vehicle  
Operators' Licenses.**

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

**Sec. 1. R. S., T. 29, § 545, amended.** The first paragraph of section 545 of Title 29 of the Revised Statutes, as enacted by chapter 137 of the public laws of 1969, is amended to read as follows:

Any person who has reached his ~~65th~~ 50th birthday and who has not taken a vision examination to qualify him to operate a motor vehicle within the past year shall be required to pass the vision portion of a driver's examination before a license shall be issued to him; except that any person who applies for and receives a license to operate a motor vehicle effective on his ~~64th~~ 49th birthday shall not be required to take such examination until and unless he applies for renewal thereof to be effective on his ~~66th~~ 51st birthday. Any person who secures a motor vehicle operator's license at either age ~~65 or 66~~ 50 or 51, as detailed, must pass the vision portion of a driver's examination at such times thereafter as he shall apply for renewal thereof.

**Sec. 2. Appropriation.** There is appropriated to the Secretary of State, Division of Motor Vehicles, from the General Highway Fund the sum of \$27,324 to carry out the purposes of this Act. The breakdown shall be as follows:

	1971-72	1972-73
SECRETARY OF STATE		
Motor Vehicle Division		
Personal Services	(4) \$11,538	(4) \$15,786

## STATEMENT OF FACT

Reducing the present age from 65 to 50 adds another 76,000 applicants who will have to have vision examinations upon renewal. These along with the 65 to 74 age group total 122,000. With the staggered licensing program, this will equal to 61,000 examination each year.

With regard to the appropriations contained in the attached proposed bill, some of the clerks who work at the window in our branch offices have been trained to give eye tests and are doing "double duty" by working at the windows and also giving eye tests. Because of the additional 61,000 eye tests which this bill would generate each year, we would have to take those clerks who have been trained for the purpose of devoting their full time to the giving of eye tests and these clerks would have to be replaced by other untrained personnel who would then devote their entire time to working at the branch office windows.