

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 843

S. P. 289

In Senate, February 17, 1971

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

HARRY N. STARBRANCH, Secretary

Presented by Senator Katz of Kennebec.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-ONE

**AN ACT Relating to Public Policy That Use of Maine's Highways
is a Privilege.**

Preamble. The public highways of Maine are an essential part of the economy of the State, and it is essential to the health and welfare of our citizens that use of our highways be free of unnecessary hazards to life and property. Irresponsible use of our highways by drivers whose previous records indicate a disregard for well-established rules of conduct for the maintenance of highway safety; the lives and property of Maine citizens are jeopardized by said drivers, and frequently by their intemperate and habitual use of alcohol prior to their driving, and by a well-documented disregard by some who continue to drive after suspension of their licenses; so that the level of slaughter and maiming of our citizens on our highways has reached a level that is intolerable and unacceptable to a moral and compassionate society.

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

Use of Maine's highways is a privilege. It is declared to be public policy that use of Maine's highways is a privilege, not a right, to be reserved to those whose presence on said highways has not been proven to be a continuing danger to the lives and property of the general public. The Secretary of State, all law enforcement agencies, public prosecutors and the judiciary are charged with the vigorous protection of the lives and property of Maine citizens as provided by statutes to effect a continuing implementation of this statement of public policy.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to state as public policy that use of our highways is a privilege rather than a right.