

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1463

H. P. 1071

House of Representatives, March 11, 1971

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

BERTHA W. JOHNSON, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Hardy of Hope.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-ONE

AN ACT Relating to Presumption of Operation of Motor Vehicles by the Registered Owner.

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

R. S., T. 29, § 906, additional. Title 29 of the Revised Statutes is amended by adding a new section 906, to read as follows:

§ 906. Presumption of operation of motor vehicles by the registered owner

In any proceeding for a violation of sections 891, 893, 894, 896, 897 and 898, the number on the registration plate displayed on any vehicle shall be prima facie evidence of the operation of such vehicle by the person in whose name such vehicle is registered.

STATEMENT OF FACT

It is extremely difficult to prove who was operating a vehicle involved in a hit and run accident. This section would shift the burden to the registered owner of a vehicle to show that he was not operating such vehicle and would facilitate the police in investigating hit and run accidents and those accidents where the operator was not actually observed alighting from his vehicle.