

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 2373

H. P. 1874

House of Representatives, January 16, 1974

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

E. LOUISE LINCOLN, Clerk

Presented by Mrs. McCormick of Union.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-FOUR

AN ACT Relating to Motor Vehicle Accident Reports.

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

Sec. 1. R. S., T. 29, § 783, sub-§ 1, amended. The 3rd sentence of subsection 1 of section 783 of Title 29 of the Revised Statutes is repealed.

Sec. 2. R. S., T. 29, § 891, amended. The 2nd sentence of the first paragraph of section 891 of Title 29 of the Revised Statutes is repealed.

Sec. 3. R. S., T. 29, § 891, amended. The 4th paragraph of section 891 of Title 29 of the Revised Statutes is amended to read as follows:

Every law enforcement officer who investigates a motor vehicle accident of which report is required, shall, either at the time and scene of the accident or elsewhere, interview participants and witnesses and shall, within 48 hours after completing the investigation, transmit his written report to the Chief of the State Police on accident form No. 1320 furnished by said Chief of the State Police and such report shall contain all available information.

Sec. 4. R. S., T. 29, § 891, amended. The 6th paragraph of section 891 of Title 29 of the Revised Statutes, as amended by section 4 of chapter 183 of the public laws of 1971, is amended to read as follows:

The driver of any vehicle involved in an accident resulting in injury to or death of any person or property damage to the apparent amount of \$200 or more, or some person acting for him, shall, within 48 hours after the accident, make a written report of it to the ~~Chief of the State Police~~ Secretary of State, on forms provided by said Secretary of State. The ~~Chief~~ Secretary of

State may require drivers of vehicles involved in any such accident to file supplemental reports whenever the original report is insufficient in the opinion of the ~~Chief~~ **Secretary of State**.

Sec. 5. R. S., T. 29, § 891, amended. The first sentence of the 8th paragraph of section 891 of Title 29 of the Revised Statutes is amended to read as follows:

Whoever is required to make a report and fails to do so, or willfully fails to give correct information required of him by the ~~Chief of the State Police~~ **Secretary of State** pertinent to any requisite report shall be deemed answerable to the Secretary of State, and the Secretary of State for either of said causes may suspend or revoke the operator's license of such person or the certificate of registration, or both, of any or all motor vehicles owned by him.

STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill implements recommendation No. 14, Department of Public Safety, in the Maine Management and Cost Survey Report. The purpose of this bill is to avoid duplication of effort between the State Police and the Secretary of State. The Governor supported this recommendation in his special message to the 106th Legislature presented on January 10, 1974.