

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 108

H. P. 89

House of Representatives, January 7, 1975

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Quinn of Gorham.

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STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-FIVE

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AN ACT to Permit Controlled Hitchhiking.

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

29 MRSA, § 2188 is repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:

§ 2188. Controlled hitchhiking permitted

1. Situations in which hitchhiking prohibited. Except as permitted in subsection 2, it shall be unlawful for any person while upon any public highway, or the right-of-way of any public highway, to endeavor by words, gestures or otherwise, to beg, invite or secure transportation in any motor vehicle not engaged in passenger carrying for hire, unless said person knows the driver thereof or any passenger therein. Nothing in this subsection shall prohibit the solicitation of aid in the event of accidents or by persons who are sick or seeking assistance for the sick. The exception for sickness shall apply only in cases of bona fide sickness in which an emergency exists.

Any person violating any of the provisions of this subsection shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$50 or by imprisonment for not more than 30 days, or by both.

2. Situations in which hitchhiking permitted. Hitchhiking is permitted in accordance with this subsection. Every municipality shall designate, with the approval of the Chief of the State Police or his designee, locations within that municipality at which persons may solicit rides in motor vehicles. Each municipality shall erect a sign large enough to be read by the driver of a motor vehicle traveling on the adjacent road or highway which denotes that the location is one from which hitchhiking is permitted. No solicitation of rides is permitted except from designated locations. In unorganized terri-

tories, the counties shall designate locations for solicitation of rides. On the Maine Turnpike, the Maine Turnpike Authority shall designate locations for the solicitation of rides.

Every person soliciting a ride from a designated location shall carry positive identification, which he shall produce in order to identify himself to any law enforcement official, to any designated employee of the Maine Turnpike Authority, if the ride is being solicited from a designated location adjacent to the Maine Turnpike, and to any driver of a motor vehicle from whom the person is soliciting a ride when that driver asks to see identification. Positive identification includes, but is not limited to, selective service notice of classification cards, military identification cards, school or university identification cards and drivers' licenses.

The Chief of the State Police shall make any rules and regulations which will further the purpose of this subsection. He shall cause suitable copies of any rules and regulations made under this subsection to be posted at all locations in the State which are designated as locations for the solicitation of rides.

#### STATEMENT OF FACT

This Act, by providing a safe and supervised method for hitchhiking throughout the State, will save energy and money by encouraging shared transportation, while still insuring both highway safety and adequate police control of hitchhiking.