

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 1725

H. P. 1452

House of Representatives, April 8, 1975

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Stubbs of Hallowell.

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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 Individuals to Pay Fines for Minor Traffic Violations  
without Having to Appear in Court.

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

29 MRSA § 2301-B is enacted to read:

§ 2301-B. Written plea in lieu of personal appearance

Whenever an officer shall issue a summons to a person for an alleged violation of sections 949, 1251, or 2122, the person shall not be required to appear in court in response to the summons any sooner than 5 days after the issuance of the summons. Notwithstanding sections 2301 and 2301-A, any person who has received a summons to appear in court for an alleged violation of sections 949, 1251, or 2122 may, within 96 hours after said summons is issued, plead guilty in writing in lieu of appearing in person. The written plea shall be on forms provided by the District Court which shall be given by the summoning officer to any person summoned for an alleged violation of sections 949, 1251 or 2122, shall be directed to the District Court having jurisdiction over the area in which the offense was committed, and, if mailed, shall be sent by certified or registered mail postmarked not later than 96 hours after said summons is issued. The written plea shall be accompanied by payment of a fine, the amount of which shall be determined from a schedule of fines which the Chief Judge of the District Court shall establish. The fines provided by such schedule shall be neither less than the minimum nor greater than the maximum fines provided by section 2303.

This section shall apply to any person regardless of the number of times such person has previously been convicted of violations of any of the pro-

visions of this Title. However, nothing in this section shall be construed as amending, modifying or repealing any of the provisions of chapter 18.

This section shall apply to any minor so summonsed, provided that the written plea shall be signed by the minor and the parent or guardian of such minor.

#### STATEMENT OF FACT

Many Maine citizens are needlessly inconvenienced through their losing a day's work by having to appear in court as a result of minor traffic violations. This bill would also reduce the heavy burden, and consequently reduce court expenses, on the courts.