

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 344

H. P. 279

House of Representatives, February 9, 1977

Referred to the Committee on Transportation. Sent up for concurrence and 1,800 copies ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Goodwin of South Berwick.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-SEVEN

AN ACT Concerning the Required Height of Motorcycle Handlebars.

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

29 MRSA § 999, 2nd ¶, as enacted by PL 1967, c. 65, is amended to read:

No person shall operate on the highway any motorcycle or motor driven cycle equipped with handlebars ~~that are more than 15 inches in height above the uppermost portion of the seat when depressed by the weight of the operator whose handgrips are higher than the shoulder level of the driver of the motorcycle.~~

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to change the required height of motorcycle handlebars. The current statute makes it illegal to drive a motorcycle with handlebars which are more than 15 inches in height above the uppermost portion of the motorcycle seat. Current technical literature indicates that as long as the handgrips of the handlebars of a motorcycle are located below the shoulder level of the motorcycle's driver, the motorcycle is safe to drive. The present statute makes motorcycle customizing unnecessarily difficult and is not required for safety. This bill will change the height requirement so as to forbid only that height which is unsafe.