

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(EMERGENCY)
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1938

H. P. 1884

Office of the Clerk of the House

The Committee on Transportation suggested. Approved for introduction by the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 24.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. MacEachern of Lincoln.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-EIGHT

**AN ACT to Repeal Mandatory Eye Tests for the Renewal of Driver's Licenses for all
Persons over 40.**

Emergency preamble. Whereas, Acts of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, the Revised Statutes, Title 29, section 545, as repealed and replaced by PL 1977, chapter 558, mandated that beginning November 1, 1977, all persons over 40 years of age must submit to an eye examination prior to renewal of their motor vehicle drivers' licenses; and

Whereas, the program established by PL 1977, chapter 558, is cumbersome and unwieldy, necessitating over 10,000 eye examinations per month; and

Whereas, the continuing administration of this program causes great expense and inconvenience to all Maine drivers and seriously hampers all services offered by the Secretary of State to the drivers of Maine; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

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

29 MRSA § 545, as repealed and replaced by PL 1977, c. 212, § 4 and by PL 1977, c. 558, § 1, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

§ 545. Elderly persons

Any person who has reached his 65th birthday shall be required to pass the vision portion of a driver's examination before his license may be renewed.

Any person who has reached his 75th birthday shall be required to pass a driver's examination before his license may be renewed.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this Act shall take effect when approved.

STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill repeals the mandatory eye examination for people over 40 years of age.