

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND NINTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1278

H. P. 1041

House of Representatives, March 16, 1979

On Motion of Mr. Carroll of Limerick, referred to the Committee on Transportation. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Tarbell of Bangor.

Cosponsor: Mr. Cox of Brewer.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-NINE

AN ACT Pertaining to Motor Vehicles Passing Stopped School Buses.

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

29 MRSA § 2019, sub-§ 5, ¶ A is enacted to read:

A. If the identity of the operator of the vehicle in violation of this section cannot be determined, the registration of the motor vehicle in violation of this section shall be suspended for a period of no less than 6 months nor more than one year. Prior to the suspension of a vehicle's registration by the Secretary of State, the school bus driver or any other witness shall identify the vehicle by its registration number plate.

Motor vehicles stolen from the owner shall not be subject to this paragraph with respect to the loss of registration.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to provide a remedy to a significant problem in this State. Present law requires the school bus driver or other witness to identify the operator of the vehicle that passes a school bus which is stopped to receive or

discharge students in order for a penalty to be applied. In most cases, the school bus driver cannot identify the operator, and the offender suffers no penalty for violating the "stopped school bus" law.

Accord to the provisions of this bill, if the operator of a vehicle cannot be identified the registration of the vehicle is subject to suspension. In the event that the operator can be determined, the registration of the vehicle is not subject to suspension.