

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND TENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 281

H. P. 247

House of Representatives, January 19, 1981

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. P. Paradis of Augusta.

Cosponsor: Mr. Jacques of Waterville.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-ONE

AN ACT to Increase the Penalty for Refusing to Stop for an Officer of the Law.

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

29 MRSA § 2501-A, as enacted by PL 1979, c. 663, § 187, is amended to read:

§ 2501-A. Refusing to stop for a law officer

1. **Definition.** For the purposes of this section, the term "signal" may include the use of a hand signal, siren or flashing emergency lights.

2. **Failure to stop.** It is unlawful for the operator of any motor vehicle to fail or refuse to stop that vehicle upon request or signal of any law officer. Failure to comply with this subsection is a Class E crime.

3. **Eluding a law officer.** Whoever, after being requested or signaled to stop, attempts to elude ~~the~~ an officer of the law by driving a vehicle at a reckless rate of speed which results in a high-speed chase between the operator's vehicle and any law enforcement vehicle using a blue light or siren is guilty of a Class ~~D~~ C crime.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to raise the violation from a Class D crime to a Class C crime.