

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND TENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 812

S. P. 286

In Senate, February 12, 1981

Submitted by the Office of Energy Resources pursuant to Joint Rule 24.

Referred to the Committee on Labor. Sent down for concurrence and ordered printed.

MAY M. ROSS, Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator Dutremble of York.

Cosponsors: Representative Foster of Ellsworth, Senator Sutton of Oxford and Representative Baker of Portland.

STATE OF MAINE

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

AN ACT to Amend the Workers' Compensation Law to Facilitate Ridesharing.

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

39 MRSA § 51, as last amended by PL 1975, c. 480, § 6, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

§ 51. Entitlement to compensation and services generally

1. Entitlement. If an employee who has not given notice of his claim of common law or statutory rights of action, or who has given the notice and has waived the same, as provided in section 28 receives a personal injury arising out of and in the course of his employment or is disabled by occupational disease, he shall be paid compensation and furnished medical and other services by the employer who has assented to become subject to this Act.

2. Injury while participating in rideshare programs. An employee injured while participating in a private, group or employer sponsored carpool, vanpool, commuter bus service or other rideshare program, having as its sole purpose the mass transportation of employees to and from work, for the purposes of this Act, shall not be deemed to have received personal injury arising out of or in the course of his employment. Nothing in the foregoing shall be held to deny benefits under

this Act to employees such as drivers, mechanics and others who receive remuneration for their participation in the rideshare programs.

STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill will encourage individuals, groups and private employers, in the interest of energy conservation, to organize, sponsor and participate in various rideshare programs by expressly stating that an employee injured while participating in various rideshare programs shall not be eligible for workers' compensation benefits unless the injured employee received compensation for his participation.