

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND TENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1073

H. P. 906

House of Representatives, February 27, 1981

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative Lewis of Auburn.

Cosponsor: Representative Baker of Portland.

STATE OF MAINE

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

AN ACT to Regulate Motorized Bicycles.

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

Sec. 1. 29 MRSA § 1, sub-§ 4, as amended by PL 1971, c. 575, § 1, is further amended by adding at the end a new sentence to read:

Motorcycle does not include a motorized bicycle.

Sec. 2. 29 MRSA § 1, sub-§ 5 is amended by adding at the end a new sentence to read:

Motor driven cycle does not include a motorized bicycle.

Sec. 3. 29 MRSA § 1, sub-§ 5-A, as enacted by PL 1977, c. 402, § 1, is amended by adding at the end a new sentence to read:

Moped does not include a motorized bicycle.

Sec. 4. 29 MRSA § 1, sub-§ 5-B is enacted to read:

5-B. Motorized bicycle. "Motorized bicycle" means a pedal bicycle which has a helper motor rated no more than 1.5 brake horsepower, a cylinder capacity not exceeding 50 cubic centimeters and an automatic transmission, and which is capable of a maximum design speed of no more than 25 miles per hour.

Sec. 5. 29 MRSA § 530-A is enacted to read:

§ 530-A. Motorized bicycle

A motorized bicycle may not be operated on a public way by any person under 16 years of age. An operator must possess a valid driver's license or learner's permit. A person operating a motorized bicycle is subject to all traffic laws and regulations, may use all public ways, except those where signs prohibiting bicycles are located, and may use bicycle lanes adjacent to various ways, except off-street recreational bicycle paths. Motorized bicycles are subject to all applicable federal motor vehicle safety standards.

Any person selling a motorized bicycle shall affix a sticker with a number to the motorized bicycle. The Secretary of State shall establish the form for the sticker. A fee of \$3 shall be paid for each sticker. The sticker shall be renewed biannually in a manner prescribed by the Secretary of State.

STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill creates a special category under the motor vehicle laws for motorized bicycles which have less power than mopeds and which should consequently be treated separately. These vehicles would be subject to the usual safety and operation provisions and could only be operated by someone with a valid license or learner's permit.