

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

1 FIRST REGULAR SESSION
2

3 ONE HUNDRED AND ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE
4

5 Legislative Document

No. 297

6
7 S.P. 121

In Senate, January 27, 1983

8 Received by the Secretary of the Senate on January 27, 1983. Referred to
9 the Committee on Transportation, and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule
10 14.

JOY J. O'BRIEN, Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator Carpenter of Aroostook.
11

12 STATE OF MAINE
13

14 IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
15 NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-THREE
16

17 AN ACT to Prohibit Radar Detectors.
18

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

21 29 MRSA §1254-A is enacted to read:

22 §1254-A. Prohibiting use of devices on motor vehi-
23 cles to detect presence of radar upon high-
24 ways

25 It is unlawful for any person to operate a motor
26 vehicle upon the highways of this State when that
27 vehicle is equipped with any device or mechanism to
28 detect the emission of radio microwaves in the
29 electromagnetic spectrum, which microwaves are
30 employed by police to measure the speed of motor
31 vehicles upon the highways of this State for law
32 enforcement purposes. A person may not possess, use
33 or offer for sale any such device or mechanism as de-

1 scribed in this section, and the presence of any such
2 device or mechanism in or upon a motor vehicle
3 traveling upon the highways of this State shall con-
4 stitute prima facie evidence of a violation of this
5 section. The State need not prove that the device in
6 question was in an operative condition or being oper-
7 ated, and any such electronic or mechanical device
8 designed for detecting police speed monitoring equip-
9 ment is declared contraband, and may be seized and
10 destroyed by the State. Any person who violates this
11 section is guilty of a Class E crime.

12 STATEMENT OF FACT

13 The sole purpose of radar detection devices is to
14 alert the speeding motorist of the presence of police
15 radar so that the motorist can avoid apprehension.
16 In effect, a radar detection device enables the
17 motorist to violate speed laws with little risk of
18 being detected and apprehended.

19 For this reason, the use of radar detection
20 devices would greatly impede the police from effec-
21 tively enforcing speed limits. It is felt that this
22 may lead to increased death and injury caused by
23 traffic accidents, and increased consumption of fuel
24 during a time of decreasing fuel supplies.

25 The monthly enforcement report submitted by the
26 Air Wing indicates that vehicles equipped with radar
27 detectors are consistently recording the highest
28 average cited speed. This is true because the detec-
29 tors have no way of alerting the driver to the air-
30 craft.

31 1517011983