

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 FIRST REGULAR SESSION
2

3 ONE HUNDRED AND ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE
4

5 Legislative Document

No. 1052

6
7 H.P. 812

House of Representatives, March 4, 1983

8 Submitted by the Department of Public Safety pursuant to Joint Rule 24.
9 On Motion of Representative Carroll of Limerick, referred to the
Committee on Transportation. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.
10 EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative Dudley of Enfield.

Cosponsors: Representative Moholland of Princeton and Representative
Norton of Biddeford.

11
12 STATE OF MAINE
13

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

17 AN ACT Concerning Standards for
18 Rejection of Altered Vehicles.
19

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

22 29 MRSA §2504, sub-§2, as enacted by PL 1979, c.
23 464, §5, is repealed and the following enacted in its
24 place:

25 2. Altered vehicles. No person may operate any
26 vehicle required to be registered in this State upon
27 any highway or street, nor shall any vehicle receive
28 a certificate of inspection, as required by this
29 chapter, if that vehicle has a bumper height of less
30 than 14 inches or a height in excess of the maximum
31 as set by this subsection. Maximum bumper height
32 shall be based on the manufacturers' gross vehicle
33 weight rating. Measurements shall be taken from a
34 level surface to any point on the lower edge of the

1 main horizontal bumper bar, exclusive of any bumper
2 guards, except that no vehicle may be modified to
3 cause the vehicle body or chassis to come into con-
4 tact with the ground or expose the fuel tank to dam-
5 age from collision or cause the wheels to come in
6 contact with the body under normal operation, and
7 that no part of the original suspension system be
8 disconnected. Nothing contained in this section may
9 prevent the installation of heavy duty equipment to
10 include shock absorbers and overload springs; and
11 nothing contained in this section may prevent a
12 person from operating a motor vehicle on a public way
13 with normal wear of the suspension system if normal
14 wear does not affect the control of the vehicle.
15 This section does not apply to motor vehicles that
16 are being lawfully towed on the highways of this
17 State. Maximum bumper heights are as follows:

	<u>FRONT</u>	<u>REAR</u>
18		
19	<u>Automobile</u>	<u>22 ins. 22 ins.</u>
20	<u>Vehicles 4,500 lbs. and under GVWR</u>	<u>24 ins. 26 ins.</u>
21	<u>Vehicles 4,501 lbs. to</u>	
22	<u>7,500 lbs. GVWR</u>	<u>27 ins. 29 ins.</u>
23	<u>Vehicles 7,501 lbs. to</u>	
24	<u>10,000 lbs. GVWR</u>	<u>28 ins. 30 ins.</u>

25 STATEMENT OF FACT

26 This bill replaces the current law dealing with
27 altered vehicles and clearly defines that which
28 "reduces the stability of the vehicle or increases
29 the risk of an accident" by describing what is
30 "altered." Manufacturers of new motor vehicles over
31 the last several years are required under federal law
32 to manufacture their vehicles with bumper heights

1 within the listed gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR)
2 maximums. This bill requires a simple measurement of
3 bumper height for enforcement and will eliminate
4 those vehicles from our highways that have been
5 altered in such a way as to expose the gas tank to
6 damage from collisions.

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