

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 FIRST REGULAR SESSION
2

3 ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE
4

5 Legislative Document

No. 62

6
7 S.P. 45

In Senate, January 15, 1985

8 Submitted by the Department of Public Safety Pursuant to Joint Rule 24.
9 Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered
printed.

10 JOY J. O'BRIEN, Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator Carpenter of Aroostook.

11 Cosponsored by Representative Drinkwater of Belfast, Representative
Paul of Sanford and Representative Paradis of Augusta.

12 STATE OF MAINE
13

14 IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
15 NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-FIVE
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
24 highways

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

1 mechanism in or upon a motor vehicle traveling upon
2 the highways of this State shall constitute prima fa-
3 cie evidence of a violation of this section. The
4 State need not prove that the device in question was
5 in an operative condition or being operated and any
6 such electronic or mechanical device designed for det-
7 ecting police speed monitoring equipment is declared
8 contraband and be seized and destroyed by the State.
9 Any person who violates this section is guilty of a
10 Class E crime.

11 STATEMENT OF FACT

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

18 For this reason, the use of radar detection de-
19 vices greatly impedes the police from effectively en-
20 forcing speed limits. It is felt that this may lead
21 to increased death and injury caused by traffic acci-
22 dents and increased consumption of fuel during a time
23 of decreasing fuel supplies.

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

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