

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 FIRST REGULAR SESSION
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3 ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE
4

5 Legislative Document

No. 893

7 H.P. 624

House of Representatives, February 28, 1985

8 On Motion of Representative Theriault of Fort Kent, referred to the
9 Committee on Transportation. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

10 EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative Nelson of Portland.

Cosponsored by Senator Danton of York.

11
12 STATE OF MAINE
13

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

17 AN ACT to Reduce the Incidence of Motor
18 Vehicle Accidents among Maine's Young
19 Drivers.
20

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

23 Sec. 1. 29 MRSA §532, first ¶, as amended by PL
24 1983, c. 553, §46, is further amended to read:

25 Any person who is at least 15 years of age and
26 has completed a course in driver education as pro-
27 vided in section 583 may apply to the Secretary of
28 State for an instruction permit. The Secretary of
29 State may, in his discretion, after applicant has
30 successfully passed all parts of an examination other
31 than the driving test, issue to the applicant an in-
32 struction permit which shall entitle the applicant,
33 while having such permit in his immediate possession,
34 to drive a motor vehicle upon the public highways for
35 a period of ~~one year~~ 18 months when accompanied by a
36 licensed operator who has at least one year of driv-

1 ing experience and is at least 18 years of age and
2 who is occupying a seat beside the driver, except in
3 the event the permittee is operating a motorcycle or
4 motor driven cycle. If any such licensed operator,
5 while accompanying an applicant and occupying a seat
6 beside the driver while the vehicle is being operated
7 on a public way, has his mental or physical function-
8 ing substantially impaired as a result of the use of
9 intoxicating liquor or drugs, such licensed operator
10 is guilty of a misdemeanor. The Secretary of State
11 may, in his discretion, issue a restricted instruc-
12 tion permit effective for a school year or for a re-
13 stricted period to an applicant who is enrolled in a
14 driver education program which includes practice
15 driving. Such instruction permit shall only be valid
16 when applicant is accompanied by an instructor ap-
17 proved by the Commissioner of Educational and Cultur-
18 al Services or eligible commercial driver education
19 instructors licensed by the Department of Business,
20 Occupational and Professional Regulation, Board of
21 Commercial Driver Education. Any person who has not
22 held a Maine operator's license during one of the 3
23 preceding years may apply for an instruction permit.

24 Sec. 2. 29 MRSA §585-A is enacted to read:

25 §585-A. Period of time required before minors apply
26 for license

27 The Secretary of State shall not accept the ap-
28 plication of any minor for an operator's license un-
29 less that minor has held a valid instruction permit
30 for a period of at least one year prior to making ap-
31 plication for the operator's license.

32 Sec. 3. 29 MRSA §906 is enacted to read:

33 §906. Unlawful operation by persons under the age of
34 19

35 No person under the age of 19 years may operate a
36 motor vehicle on a public way between the hours of 12
37 midnight and 6 a.m. A violation of this section is a
38 traffic infraction.

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STATEMENT OF FACT

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The purpose of this bill is to reduce the incidence of highway accidents involving young drivers by requiring minors to operate with an instruction permit for a full year prior to making application for an operator's license and by prohibiting minors from driving between the hours of midnight and 6 a.m.

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