## MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 2	FIRST REGULAR SESSION
3 4	ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE
5 <b>6</b>	Legislative Document No. 1050
7 8 9	S.P. 383  In Senate, March 14, 1985  Submitted by the Department of Public Safety pursuant to Joint Rule 24.  Referred to the Committee on Transportation. Sent down for concurrence and ordered printed.  JOY J. O'BRIEN, Secretary of the Senate
11	Presented by Senator Violette of Aroostook.  Cosponsored by Senator Danton of York, Representative Murray of Bangor and Representative Pines of Limestone.
12 13	STATE OF MAINE
14 15 16	IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-FIVE
17 18 19	AN ACT to Require the Use of Seat Belts in all Motor Vehicles.
20 21	Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:
22	29 MRSA §1368-C is enacted to read:
23	§1368-C. Use of seat belts
24 25 26 27	1. Mandatory use. The driver and every passenger shall wear a properly secured seat belt while the motor vehicle is in operation, provided that the vehicle in operation is:
28 29	A. An automobile manufactured or assembled on or after January 1, 1966; and
30 31 32	B. A motor vehicle required by federal law or rule to be equipped with seat belts at the time of manufacture or assembly.

- 2. Duty of driver and passenger. The driver is personally responsible for assuring that he and each passenger below the age of 18 years are properly secured by a seat belt while the vehicle is being operated. A passenger who has attained the age of 18 years is personally responsible for complying with this section.
  - 3. Exceptions. The requirements of subsection 1 do not apply to:
- 10 A. A passenger while he is engaged in direct
  11 life-saving patient care activities, such as
  12 cardiopulmonary resuscitation; or
- B. A rear seat passenger when all other seating positions equipped with seat belts are occupied.
- 15
  4. Violations. Violation of this section is a
  16 civil violation for which a forfeiture of \$25 for the
  17 first violation and \$50 for each subsequent violation
  18 shall be adjudged.
- 19 Conduct permitted by section 1368-B shall not give 20 rise to an enforcement action under this section.
- 21 5. Grace period. A person stopped for a viola-22 tion of this section prior to December 1, 1985, shall 23 be issued a warning.

## 24 STATEMENT OF FACT

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This bill requires drivers and passengers of motor vehicles to wear seat belts if their vehicles were equipped with seat belts by the manufacturer. Failure to wear a seat belt carries a \$25 fine for a first offense and a \$50 fine for subsequent offenses.

Ambulance personnel need not wear seat belts while they are engaged in direct life-saving patient care. A rear seat passenger need not wear a seat belt if all available seating positions equipped with seat belts are occupied.

35 A grace period will be in effect until December 36 1, 1985.

Seat belts reduce by 1/2 the chances of serious injury in an accident. Motor vehicle crashes account for over 200 deaths per year in Maine. Nationally, motor vehicle crashes result in more cases of paraplegia and quadraplegia than all other causes combined and are major causes of epilepsy and brain damage.

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