

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 FIRST REGULAR SESSION
2

3 ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE
4

5 Legislative Document

No. 1298

6
7 H.P. 903

House of Representatives, April 10, 1985

8 Referred to the Committee on Transportation. Sent up for concurrence
9 and ordered printed.

10 EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative Nelson of Portland.

11
12 STATE OF MAINE
13

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

17 AN ACT Relating to the Reporting of Highway
18 Statistics.
19

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

22 Sec. 1. 29 MRSA §891, 5th ¶, as amended by PL
23 1979, c. 626, §3, is further amended to read:

24 Every law enforcement officer, who investigates a
25 motor vehicle accident of which a report is required,
26 shall, either at the time and scene of the accident
27 or elsewhere, interview participants and witnesses
28 and shall, within 5 days from the time of notifica-
29 tion of the accident, transmit his written report to
30 the Chief of the State Police and that report shall
31 contain all available information. The report shall
32 contain information indicating whether participants
33 in the accident were secured in seat belts or child
34 safety seats at the time of the accident and whether,
35 in the case of an accident involving a motor driven
36 cycle, participants on the motor driven cycle were

1 wearing protective head gear at the time of the acci-
2 dent.

3 Sec. 2. 29 MRSA §891, 7th ¶, as amended by PL
4 1979, c. 480, §3, is further amended to read:

5 The driver of any vehicle involved in an accident
6 resulting in injury to or death of any person or
7 property damage to the apparent amount of \$300 or
8 more, or some person acting for him, shall, within 48
9 hours after the accident, make a written report of it
10 to the Secretary of State, on forms provided by said
11 the Secretary of State. The report shall contain
12 information as to whether the driver and any passen-
13 gers in the motor vehicle were secured in seat belts
14 or child safety seats at the time of the accident or,
15 if the driver was operating a motor driven cycle at
16 the time of the accident, whether the driver and pas-
17 sengers were wearing protective headgear at the time
18 of the accident. The Secretary of State may require
19 drivers of vehicles involved in any such accident to
20 file supplemental reports whenever the original re-
21 port is insufficient in the opinion of the Secretary
22 of State.

23 Sec. 3. 29 MRSA §891-A is enacted to read:

24 §891-A. Additional reports

25 In the case of any accident involving a motor ve-
26 hicle where any occupant of the vehicle was not se-
27 cured by a safety seat belt or child safety seat or
28 involving a motor driven cycle where the operator of
29 the motor driven cycle or any passenger on the cycle
30 was not wearing protective headgear, the Secretary
31 of State may require additional reports on a form
32 prescribed by him containing information as to wheth-
33 er the use of these safety devices would have pre-
34 vented or minimized any injuries sustained by partic-
35 ipants in the accident. The Secretary of State may
36 require a report pursuant to this section from the
37 investigating officer, attending physician, rescue or
38 medical personnel or any other reliable source. The
39 Secretary of State shall promulgate rules to carry
40 out this section.

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STATEMENT OF FACT

2 The purpose of this bill is to require that acci-
3 dent reports include information concerning the use
4 of seat belts and protective headgear at the time of
5 the accident. This bill also allows the Secretary of
6 State to ascertain whether injuries might have been
7 lessened through the use of seat belts and protective
8 headgear.

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