

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

NO. 304

H.P. 236 House of Representatives, February 6, 1987
Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested
and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk
Presented by Representative REEVES of Pittston.

Cosponsored by Representatives RYDELL of Brunswick and
CARROLL of Gray.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-SEVEN

1 AN ACT to Reduce the Incidence of Motor
2 Vehicle Accidents among Maine's Young
3 Drivers.
4

5 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as
6 follows:

7 Sec. 1. 29 MRSA §532, first ¶, as amended by PL
8 1983, c. 553, §46, is further amended to read:

9 Any person who is at least 15 years of age and
10 has completed a course in driver education as pro-
11 vided in section 583 may apply to the Secretary of
12 State for an instruction permit. The Secretary of
13 State may, in his discretion, after applicant has
14 successfully passed all parts of an examination other
15 than the driving test, issue to the applicant an in-
16 struction permit which shall entitle the applicant,

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

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

30 §585-A. Period of time required before minors apply
31 for license

32 The Secretary of State shall not accept the ap-
33 plication of any minor for an operator's license un-
34 less that minor has held a valid instruction permit
35 for a period of at least one year prior to making ap-
36 plication for the operator's license.

37 Sec. 3. 29 MRS A §906 is enacted to read:

38 §906. Unlawful operation by persons under the age of
39 17

40 No person under the age of 17 years may operate a
41 motor vehicle on a public way between the hours of 12

1 midnight and 6 a.m. A violation of this section is a
2 traffic infraction.

3 STATEMENT OF FACT

4 The purpose of this bill is to reduce the inci-
5 dence of highway accidents involving young drivers by
6 requiring minors to operate with an instruction per-
7 mit for a full year prior to making application for
8 an operator's license and by prohibiting minors from
9 driving between the hours of midnight and 6 a.m.

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