

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 659

S.P. 240

In Senate, March 9, 1987

Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.

JOY J. O'BRIEN, Secretary of the Senate
Presented by Senator BRANNIGAN of Cumberland.
Cosponsored by Senator COLLINS of Aroostook,
Representative PINES of Limestone.

STATE OF MAINE

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

1 AN ACT to Require the Use of Seat Belts in
2 all Motor Vehicles.
3

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

6 29 MRSA §1368-C is enacted to read:

7 §1368-C. Use of seat belts

8 1. Mandatory use. The driver and every passen-
9 ger shall wear a properly secured seat belt while the
10 motor vehicle is in operation, provided that the ve-
11 hicle in operation is:

12 A. An automobile manufactured or assembled on or
13 after January 1, 1966; and

1 B. A motor vehicle required by federal law or
2 rule to be equipped with seat belts at the time
3 of manufacture or assembly.

4 2. Duty of driver and passenger. The driver is
5 personally responsible for assuring that he and each
6 passenger below the age of 18 years are properly se-
7 cured by a seat belt while the vehicle is being oper-
8 ated. A passenger who has attained the age of 18
9 years is personally responsible for complying with
10 this section.

11 3. Exceptions. The requirements of subsection 1
12 do not apply to:

13 A. A passenger while he is engaged in direct
14 life-saving patient care activities, such as
15 cardiopulmonary resuscitation; or

16 B. A rear seat passenger when all other seating
17 positions equipped with seat belts are occupied.

18 4. Violations. Violation of this section is a
19 civil violation for which a forfeiture of \$25 for the
20 first violation and \$50 for each subsequent violation
21 shall be adjudged.

22 Conduct permitted by section 1368-B shall not give
23 rise to an enforcement action under this section.

24 5. Grace period. A person stopped for a viola-
25 tion of this section prior to December 1, 1987, shall
26 be issued a warning.

27 STATEMENT OF FACT

28 This bill requires drivers and passengers of mo-
29 tor vehicles to wear seat belts if their vehicles
30 were equipped with seat belts by the manufacturer.
31 Failure to wear a seat belt carries a \$25 fine for a
32 first offense and a \$50 fine for subsequent offenses.

33 Ambulance personnel need not wear seat belts
34 while they are engaged in direct life-saving patient
35 care. A rear seat passenger need not wear a seat

1 belt if all available seating positions equipped with
2 seat belts are occupied.

3 A grace period will be in effect until December
4 1, 1987.

5 Seat belts reduce by 1/2 the chances of serious
6 injury in an accident. Motor vehicle crashes account
7 for over 200 deaths per year in Maine. Nationally,
8 motor vehicle crashes result in more cases of para-
9 plegia and quadraplegia than all other causes com-
10 bined and are major causes of epilepsy and brain dam-
11 age.

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