

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

NO. 877

H.P. 649 House of Representatives, March 23, 1987
Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested
and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk
Presented by Representative PINES of Limestone.

Cosponsored by Representatives MacBRIDE of Presque Isle,
REEVES of Pittston and Senator GAUVREAU of Androscoggin.

STATE OF MAINE

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

1 AN ACT to Require the Use of Seat Belts for
2 Children 12 Years of Age and Younger.
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 seatbelts; children 4 to 12 years of
8 age

9 1. Children 4 to 12 years of age. When a child
10 4 years of age or older, but less than 12 years of
11 age, is a passenger in a motor vehicle, which is re-
12 quired by the United States Department of Transporta-
13 tion to be equipped with seat belts, the operator of
14 the motor vehicle shall have the child properly se-
15 cured in a seat belt or in a child safety seat that

1 meets the requirements set out in 49 Code of Federal
2 Regulations, Part 571.

3 2. Exception. Subsection 1 does not apply when
4 the number of passengers exceeds the seating capacity
5 of the vehicle.

6 3. Warnings. Any person stopped for a violation
7 of this section, during the initial 6 months after
8 this section takes effect, shall be issued a warning
9 that a violation of this section has occurred.

10 4. Penalty. Following the initial 6-month warn-
11 ing period, violation of this section is a civil vio-
12 lation for which a forfeiture of \$25 for the first
13 violation and \$50 for each subsequent violation may
14 be adjudged.

15 5. Failure to secure child; use as evidence.
16 Failure to secure a child, in accordance with this
17 section, may not be considered negligence imputable
18 to the child, nor may that failure be admissible as
19 evidence in any civil or criminal action.

20 STATEMENT OF FACT

21 The purpose of this bill is to require the use of
22 seat belts for children 4 to 12 years of age who are
23 passengers in motor vehicles equipped with seat
24 belts.

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