

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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114th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION - 1989

Legislative Document

No. 688

H.P. 508

House of Representatives, March 7, 1989

Reference to the Committee on Judiciary suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Ed Pert".

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative HOGLUND of Portland.

Cosponsored by Representative KETOVER of Portland, Representative COTE of Auburn and Senator HOLLOWAY of Lincoln.

STATE OF MAINE

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

An Act to Increase the Penalty for Theft from a Locked Motor Vehicle.



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

3 17-A MRSA §362, sub-§3, ¶D is enacted to read:

5 D. The theft is from a locked vehicle and the value of the
7 property does not exceed \$5,000.

9 (1) It shall be prima facie evidence that a vehicle
11 was locked at the time of the theft if the vehicle is
13 damaged in a manner consistent with a forced entry.

15 (2) "Vehicle" for purposes of this subsection has the
17 same meaning as in Title 29, section 1, subsection 20.

19 (3) All other thefts from motor vehicles shall be
21 classified according to the value of the property
23 involved.

25 STATEMENT OF FACT

27 This bill changes the sentencing class system for thefts
29 from motor vehicles. Currently, a theft from a motor vehicle is
31 classified for sentencing purposes according to the value of the
33 property taken from the vehicle. This bill makes any theft from
a locked motor vehicle a Class C crime unless the value of the
property taken exceeds \$5,000. In that case the theft would be a
Class B crime. Thefts from unlocked motor vehicles would
continue to be classified according to the value of the property
involved. The rationale for only increasing the penalty for
thefts from locked motor vehicles is to encourage people to lock
their doors and take the keys.