

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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115th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1991

Legislative Document

No. 526

H.P. 372

House of Representatives, February 11, 1991

Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ed Pert".

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative LIBBY of Kennebunk.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND NINETY-ONE

An Act to Amend the Minimum Age for Obtaining a Driver's License.

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

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4 Sec. 1. 29 MRSA §538, first ¶, as amended by PL 1989, c. 513,
§3, is further amended to read:

6 Ne An operator's license may not be issued to any a person
8 under 16-years 15 years and 6 months of age, except a special
 restricted license as provided in section 538-A.

10 Sec. 2. 29 MRSA §585, as amended by PL 1983, c. 455, §22, is
12 repealed.

14 Sec. 3. 29 MRSA §585-A is enacted to read:

16 §585-A. Minors

18 The Secretary of State may not accept the application of a
20 minor for an operator's license or instruction permit unless the
 following requirements are met.

22 1. Authorization. The applicant must have authorization to
 apply as follows:

24 A. The application is signed by a parent or guardian having
26 the custody of the minor or by the spouse of the minor,
 provided that the spouse is of the age of 18 years or over;

28 B. In the event a minor has no father, mother, guardian or
30 spouse who has attained the age of 18 years, the application
32 is signed by the employer of the minor, provided that the
 employer has attained the age of 18 years; or

34 C. The minor is emancipated pursuant to Title 15, section
36 3506-A, and the application is accompanied by an attested
 copy of the court order of emancipation.

38 2. Student. The applicant must be an honor roll student
40 enrolled in a secondary school and the application must be
 accompanied by:

42 A. A statement signed by the student's guidance counselor
44 attesting that the applicant is capable of being a
 responsible driver; and

46 B. A certificate from the applicant's school certifying
48 that the applicant is on the honor roll for the grading
 period prior to the application.

50 3. Driver education course. The applicant must have
 successfully completed a driver education course as provided in
 section 583.

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STATEMENT OF FACT

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6 This bill lowers the age limit for operator licenses from 16
8 years to 15 years and 6 months of age. The bill also provides
10 that an applicant for a license who is a student under 18 years
12 of age must be on the school honor roll for the grading period
14 prior to the application. The student's application must be
16 accompanied by a certificate from the applicant's school
certifying the student's honor roll average and must also be
accompanied by a statement signed by the school guidance
counselor that the applicant is capable of being a responsible
driver. The bill retains the additional requirements found in
current law regarding parental or other authorization and driver
education.