



115th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1991

Legislative Document

No. 633

H.P. 443

House of Representatives, February 14, 1991

Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative MACOMBER of South Portland. Cosponsored by Senator CLARK of Cumberland, Senator CAHILL of Sagadahoc and Representative BAILEY of Farmington.

STATE OF MAINE

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

An Act Relating to Violations Involving the Disregard of Red Flashing Lights on School Buses.

		Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:
	2	29 MRSA §2019, sub-§2-A is enacted to read:
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	б	2-A. Owner's liability for vehicle illegally passing school bus. The owner of a motor vehicle involved in a violation of
	8	subsection 2 is liable for the violation as provided in this
	0	subsection.
	10	A. The operator of a school bus who observes a violation of subsection 2 may report the violation to a police officer.
	12	If the operator reports the violation, the operator shall report the time and the location of the violation and the
	14	registration plate number and a description of the vehicle involved. The officer shall initiate an investigation of
	16	the reported violation and, if possible, contact the owner
-		of the motor vehicle involved and request that the owner
۰. 	18	supply information identifying the operator.
. : ·	20	B. The investigating officer may cause the owner of the
	22	<u>vehicle to be served with a summons for a violation of this</u> subsection. The owner may be served personally or service
	~ 4	may be made by regular mail addressed to the owner's last
	24	known_address.
	26	<u>C. The owner of a motor vehicle involved in a violation of subsection 2 is not liable for the violation under the</u>
	28	following circumstances.
	30	(1) If the owner of the motor vehicle provides the
	32	investigating officer with the name and address of the person operating the vehicle at the time of the
:	34	violation and the person named admits operating the vehicle at the time of the violation, then the person
	36	<u>operating the vehicle and not the owner may be charged</u> under this section.
	38	(2) If the motor vehicle is owned by a lessor of vehicles and at the time of the violation the vehicle
	40	<u>was in possession of a lessee, and the lessor provides</u> the investigating officer with a copy of the lease
	42	<u>agreement kept pursuant to and containing the</u> information required by section 901, then the lessee
· · · .	44	and not the lessor may be charged as the owner under
		personal this section.
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	48	(3) If the motor vehicle is owned by a dealer and at the time of the violation the vehicle was operated by
	50	any person other than the dealer, and if the dealer provides the investigating officer with the name and
		address of the person who had control over the vehicle,
	52	then that person and not the dealer may be charged as the owner under this section.
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D. It is an affirmative defense to prosecution under this subsection that a report that the motor vehicle was stolen was given to a law enforcement officer or agency before the violation occurred or within a reasonable time after the violation occurred.

STATEMENT OF FACT

Under current law, passing a stopped school bus is a difficult violation for a police officer to investigate because the school bus driver often can not identify the offending operator even if the driver can identify the vehicle involved and provide the registration plate number.

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16 Under this bill, the owner of the vehicle involved is guilty of a violation, unless the owner identifies the operator and the 18 operator admits the violation, the vehicle had been reported stolen or the owner is a lessor or dealer.