

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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115th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1991

Legislative Document

No. 1499

H.P. 1026

House of Representatives, April 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 LARRIVEE of Gorham.

Cosponsored by Representative HEINO of Boothbay, Senator MILLS of Oxford and Representative McKEEN of Windham.

STATE OF MAINE

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

An Act to Improve Motorcycle Driver Education.



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

2 **Sec. 1. 29 MRSA §583-A, first ¶**, as amended by PL 1987, c. 415,
4 §21, is further amended to read:

6 Effective March 1, 1987, notwithstanding any other
8 provisions of law, no motorcycle or motor driven cycle learner's
10 permit or permission or restriction to operate a motorcycle or
12 motor driven cycle may be issued to any person under 21 years of
14 age or, after January 1, 1992, to any person, unless that person
16 presents a certificate of successful completion of a prescribed
 motorcycle driver education program and examination approved by
 the Secretary of State and given by a certified instructor; the
 person shall must demonstrate his ability to safely operate a
 motorcycle in the examination. All licenses expire on December
 31st of the year of issue.

18 **Sec. 2. Study.** The Secretary of State shall conduct a study
20 of potential improvements to the Motorcycle Driver Education
 Program.

22 1. To assist in conducting the study, the Secretary of
24 State shall form a committee consisting of the following: two
26 members of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation
28 appointed by the committee chairs; 2 representatives from the
30 Department of the Secretary of State appointed by the Secretary
32 of State, one of whom is elected to chair the study; 2
34 representatives of the Department of Public Safety, appointed by
 the Commissioner of Public Safety; 2 representatives of United
 Bikers of Maine who are licensed motorcycle operators appointed
 by the Secretary of State; one representative of the Maine
 Motorcycle Dealers Association appointed by the Secretary of
 State; and one certified motorcycle safety instructor appointed
 by the Secretary of State.

36 2. The study must evaluate the following:

38 A. The feasibility of adding 7 hours of actual riding
40 instruction to the programs classroom instruction
 requirements;

42 B. The availability of facilities for the expansion of the
44 Motorcycle Driver Education Program;

46 C. The fee structure for the current program and projected
48 costs for implementing the expanded riding portion of the
 program; and

50 D. Any other issues the Secretary of State determines
 appropriate.

2 3. The Secretary of State shall prepare and submit a report
3 to the 116th Legislature no later than March 1, 1993, containing
4 specific findings, conclusions and recommendations for
5 legislation. The Secretary of State shall provide copies of the
6 report to the Executive Director of the Legislative Council.

7 4. Legislative members shall receive per diem
8 reimbursement. Other members will be compensated for expenses.

9 **Sec. 3. Allocation.** The following funds are allocated from the
10 Highway Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.

11

12

1991-92

13 **SECRETARY OF STATE,**
14 **DEPARTMENT OF THE**

15 **Division of Motor Vehicle**

16

All Other

\$4,000

17

18 Provides funds for the Secretary of State's
19 study of motorcycle driver education for
20 expenses, including meals, mileage and
21 legislative per diem. These funds must not
22 lapse but must carry forward to June 30,
23 1993 to be used for those purposes.

24

25

STATEMENT OF FACT

26

27 The State's current Motorcycle Driver Education Program has
28 been conducted only in classroom settings and for newly licensed
29 riders under 21 years of age. Current motorcycle fatality data
30 indicates the need for requiring training for all newly licensed
31 riders. The bill establishes a study to explore the program's
32 expansion to include hands-on riding instruction and the
33 potential impact of program expansion. The bill also establishes
34 a successful completion of a motorcycle driver education program
35 as a prerequisite for issuance of a motorcycle license permit or
36 license after January 1, 1992.

37