

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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117th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1995

Legislative Document

No. 1088

S.P. 400

In Senate, March 30, 1995

An Act to Require Consumer Information on Motorcycle Helmets.

Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "May M. Ross".

MAY M. ROSS
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator BENOIT of Franklin.

Cosponsored by Senators: HALL of Piscataquis, O'DEA of Penobscot, Representatives: AHEARNE of Madawaska, AIKMAN of Poland, DESMOND of Mapleton, GOOLEY of Farmington, KEANE of Old Town, KILKELLY of Wiscasset, MAYO of Bath, McALEVEY of Waterboro, MERES of Norridgewock, O'GARA of Westbrook, TUFTS of Stockton Springs, WATSON of Farmingdale.

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

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Sec. 1. 29-A MRSA §2083-A is enacted to read:

§2083-A. Consumer information on motorcycle safety helmets

1. Safety information. A motorcycle safety helmet marketed in this State must be accompanied by the following printed information:

A. The manufacturer's name and address;

B. The weight of helmet in pounds, ounces and fractions of ounces. A helmet with a weight in excess of 3.5 pounds must have the precautionary statement "risk of whiplash" noted on the helmet;

C. The composition of the outer shell of the helmet;

D. The date of manufacture and minimum life expectancy of an undamaged helmet;

E. The manufacturer's precautions concerning chemical agents that might damage the helmet;

F. The minimum impact protection in miles per hour for the front, top, back and sides of the helmet; and

G. On helmets covering the ears, a precautionary notice that reads or states "Hearing ability may be reduced when wearing this helmet."

2. Exception. Subsection 1 does not apply to helmets that are marketed as nonprotective novelty items.

3. Warnings. A person marketing motorcycle safety helmets in this State during the initial 6 months after the effective date of this section must be issued a warning by the Secretary of State that a violation of this section has occurred.

4. Penalty. Violation of this section is a civil violation for which a forfeiture of \$10 plus court costs for each violation may be adjudged.

STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill requires that all motorcycle safety helmets marketed in this State have accompanying consumer safety information.