

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999

Legislative Document

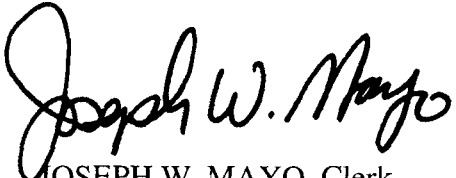
No. 61

H.P. 47

House of Representatives, January 7, 1999

An Act to Decriminalize Failure to Register a Motor Vehicle.

Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.


JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative AHEARNE of Madawaska.

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

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Sec. 1. 29-A MRSA §351, sub-§1, as enacted by PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 and affected by Pt. B, §5, is amended to read:

1. Failure to register. A person commits a ~~Class-E-crime~~ civil violation for which a forfeiture of not more than \$1,000 may be adjudged if that person fails to register a vehicle that is operated or remains on a public way as provided by this Title.

Sec. 2. 29-A MRSA §351, sub-§1-A, as repealed and replaced by PL 1995, c. 584, Pt. B, §4, is amended to read:

1-A. Residents required to register. An owner of a vehicle who becomes a resident of this State shall register that vehicle in this State within 30 days of establishing residency. A person who operates or allows a vehicle that is not registered in accordance with this subsection to remain on a public way commits a ~~Class-E-crime~~ civil violation pursuant to subsection 1.

SUMMARY

Currently, failure to register a motor vehicle is a Class E crime for which a jail sentence of up to 6 months and a fine of up to \$1,000 may be imposed.

This bill decriminalizes the failure to register a motor vehicle by removing the risk of jail time, but leaves the maximum forfeiture that may be imposed at \$1,000.