

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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M
R.S.

L.D. 227

DATE: 3-24-99

(Filing No. H- 83)

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TRANSPORTATION

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
119TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 165, L.D. 227, Bill, "An Act to Further Decriminalize Operating an Unregistered Vehicle"

Amend the bill in section 1 in that part designated "§351." by striking out all of the first indented paragraph of subsection 1 (page 1, lines 11 to 14 in L.D.) and inserting in its place the following:

'1. **Failure to register.** A person ~~commits a Class E crime if that person~~ who fails to register a vehicle that is operated or remains on a public way as provided by this Title. ~~commits.~~'

Further amend the bill in section 1 in that part designated "§351." in subsection 1 in paragraph A in the first line (page 1, line 16 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "civil violation" and inserting in its place the following: 'traffic infraction'

Further amend the bill in section 1 in that part designated "§351." by striking out all of subsection 1-A (page 1, lines 24 to 29 in L.D.) and inserting in its place the following:

'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~~ traffic infraction pursuant to subsection 1, paragraph A.'

Further amend the bill by inserting at the end before the summary the following:

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

R 48

FISCAL NOTE

2

This bill may reduce prosecutions for Class E crimes. If the number of jail sentences is reduced, the savings to the counties are estimated to be \$82.48 per day per prisoner. The amount of any reduction of jail time and the resulting savings to the county jail system are expected to be insignificant.

8

This bill may decrease the number of criminal cases but increase the number of traffic infractions filed in the court system. The net effect on the Judicial Department's workload and administrative costs will be minimal. The net effect on the collection of fines will also be insignificant.'

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SUMMARY

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The bill proposed to make failure to register a vehicle a civil violation instead of a Class E crime. This amendment redefines those offenses as a traffic infraction.

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The amendment also adds a fiscal note to the bill.

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