

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 120th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2001

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Legislative Document

No. 557

H.P. 436

House of Representatives, February 6, 2001

**An Act to Amend the Laws Pertaining to Pedestrians on a Public Way.**

(EMERGENCY)

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Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.

*Millicent M. MacFarland*

MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND, Clerk

Presented by Representative BUCK of Yarmouth.

Cosponsored by Representatives: COLLINS of Wells, McKENNEY of Cumberland.

2           **Emergency preamble.** Whereas, Acts of the Legislature do not  
become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted  
as emergencies; and

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6           **Whereas,** pedestrian movement on public ways is an immediate  
matter of public safety; and

8           **Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts  
create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of  
10 Maine and require the following legislation as immediately  
necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and  
12 safety; now, therefore,

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

16           **Sec. 1. 29-A MRSA §2056, sub-§2,** as enacted by PL 1993, c.  
683, Pt. A, §2 and affected by Pt. B, §5, is amended to read:

18  
20           **2. Pedestrian on way.** Where sidewalks are not provided, a  
pedestrian person on foot shall walk facing approaching traffic  
on the left side of the public way or the way's shoulder when  
22 practicable. Persons using wheels of any kind, such as in-line  
skates or wheelchairs, shall operate on the right side of the  
24 public way, maintain 10 feet from the center line of the public  
way and yield the right-of-way to motor vehicles.

26  
28           A. An organized foot marathon may be held on the right side  
of the public way if the following conditions are met:

30           (1) Marathon organizers must notify the applicable law  
enforcement and government agencies and must secure a  
32 permit for the event, when required;

34           (2) Marathon organizers must place signs at a minimum  
of every 1/2 mile notifying operators of the event.  
36 Signs may include other information for the marathon  
participants and operators;

38           (3) Marathon organizers must place signs in advance of  
the event and must remove signs within 30 minutes after  
40 the end of the event. Signs must meet all other state  
standards; and

42  
44           (4) Marathon participants must have the right-of-way  
over vehicles and other persons, except for public  
46 safety vehicles in service or on call.

2 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the  
preamble, this Act takes effect when approved.

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### SUMMARY

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8 This bill clarifies the law pertaining to pedestrian  
movement on public ways. Persons using wheels of any kind, such  
10 as in-line skates or wheelchairs, are required to operate on the  
right side of the road and maintain 10 feet from the center line,  
giving the right-of-way to motor vehicles. Organized foot  
12 marathons may be held on the right side of the public way  
provided certain conditions are met. These conditions are that  
14 the marathon organizers must notify applicable law enforcement  
and government agencies; marathon organizers must secure required  
16 permits; marathon organizers must place signs at a minimum of  
every 1/2 mile notifying vehicles of the event; signs may include  
18 other information for the marathon participants or other  
vehicles; marathon organizers must place signs in advance of the  
20 event and must remove signs within 30 minutes after the end of  
the event; signs must meet all other state standards; and  
22 participants must have the right-of-way over vehicles and other  
persons except for public safety vehicles in service or on call.