

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)



122nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2005

Legislative Document

No. 1521

H.P. 1068

House of Representatives, March 31, 2005

An Act To Clarify Law Enforcement Procedures For Fatal Motor Vehicle Accidents

Reference to the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety suggested and ordered printed.

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative DUPLESSIE of Westbrook.
Cosponsored by Senator MILLS of Somerset and
Representatives: BLANCHETTE of Bangor, MARLEY of Portland.

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

4 **Sec. 1. 25 MRSA §1502-B is enacted to read:**

6 **§1502-B. Fatal motor vehicle accidents; jurisdiction**

8 The State Police has primary jurisdiction over
10 investigations of fatal motor vehicle accidents when evidence at
12 the scene appears to indicate that a surviving operator of a
14 motor vehicle involved in the accident violated a law governing
16 the operation of a motor vehicle. The State Police shall
18 coordinate its investigation of such an accident with the
20 investigations of sheriffs and deputy sheriffs, constables,
22 marshals, deputy marshals and police officers of cities and towns
24 as far as possible.

26 **SUMMARY**

28 This bill specifies that the State Police is the lead agency for the investigation of fatal motor vehicle accidents when it appears that a surviving operator of one of the vehicles involved in the accident violated a law governing the operation of a motor vehicle. This bill provides status to the State Police similar to the status given other state agencies involving different crimes, such as giving the State Fire Marshal lead-agency status over suspicious fires and the Attorney General direction and control over suspected homicides.