

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 123rd MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2007

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Legislative Document

No. 997

S.P. 314

March 2, 2007

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**An Act Imposing Increased Responsibility for Registered Owners of  
Motor Vehicles**

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Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN  
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator SHERMAN of Aroostook.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 29-A MRSA §2414, sub-§8** is enacted to read:

3 **8. Registered owner's liability.** A person who is the registered owner of a vehicle  
4 at the time that vehicle is involved in a violation of this section commits a traffic  
5 infraction.

6 A. It is a defense to a prosecution for a violation under this subsection that:

7 (1) A person other than the owner was convicted of operating the vehicle at the  
8 time of the violation in violation of subsections 2 to 7. In that case, the registered  
9 owner may not be found in violation of this subsection;

10 (2) The registered owner is a lessor of vehicles and at the time of the violation  
11 the vehicle was in the possession of a lessee if the lessor provides the  
12 investigating officer with a copy of the lease agreement containing the  
13 information required by section 254. In that case the lessee and not the lessor  
14 may be charged under this subsection;

15 (3) That the vehicle is operated using a dealer or transporter registration plate  
16 and at the time of the violation the vehicle was operated by a person other than  
17 the dealer or transporter if the dealer or transporter provides the investigating  
18 officer with the name and address of the person who had control over the vehicle  
19 at the time of the violation. In that case that person and not the dealer or  
20 transporter may be charged under this subsection; or

21 (4) A report that the vehicle was stolen was given to a law enforcement officer or  
22 agency before the violation occurred or within a reasonable time after the  
23 violation occurred. In that case, the registered owner may not be charged under  
24 this subsection.

25 **SUMMARY**

26 This bill establishes a presumption that a person who is a registered owner of a  
27 vehicle at the time the vehicle is involved in a violation of the laws requiring a person to  
28 stop a vehicle at the request of a law enforcement officer commits a traffic infraction.