

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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123rd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2007

Legislative Document

No. 1587

S.P. 559

March 21, 2007

An Act To Strengthen Maine's Distracted-driving Penalties

Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator SHERMAN of Aroostook.
Cosponsored by Representative: CLEARY of Houlton.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 29-A MRSA §2419** is enacted to read:

3 **§2419. Distracted driving**

4 **1. Distracted driving.** A person may not operate a motor vehicle while distracted.
5 For purposes of this section, "distracted" means operating a motor vehicle while engaged
6 in an activity not related to the actual operation of a motor vehicle in a manner that
7 interferes with the safe operation of the vehicle on a highway.

8 **2. Violation.** A person is guilty of distracted driving if that person operates, with
9 criminal negligence as defined in Title 17-A, section 35, a motor vehicle while distracted.

10 **3. Penalty.** A violation of this section is a Class E crime that, notwithstanding Title
11 17-A, section 1301, is punishable by a fine of not less than \$300 for the first offense and a
12 mandatory 30-day suspension of a driver's license for a 2nd offense occurring within 3
13 years of the first offense.

14 SUMMARY

15 The bill defines "distracted" and makes it a Class E crime to drive while distracted.
16 The bill also imposes a fine of \$300 for the first offense of driving while distracted and a
17 suspension of a person's license for 30 days for a 2nd offense within 3 years of the first
18 offense.