

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 124th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2009

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Legislative Document

No. 653

H.P. 467

House of Representatives, February 19, 2009

### **An Act To Strengthen the Penalties for Leaving the Scene of an Accident**

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

*Millicent M. MacFarland*  
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND  
Clerk

Presented by Representative WRIGHT of Berwick.  
Cosponsored by Representatives: EVES of North Berwick, WHEELER of Kittery.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 29-A MRSA §2252, sub-§4**, as enacted by PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 and  
3 affected by Pt. B, §5, is amended to read:

4 **4. Violation.** A person commits a Class ~~D~~ C crime if that person fails to comply  
5 with this section.

6 **Sec. 2. 29-A MRSA §2252, sub-§5**, as enacted by PL 1999, c. 670, §1, is  
7 amended to read:

8 **5. Aggravated punishment category.** Notwithstanding subsection 4, a person  
9 commits a Class ~~E~~ B crime if that person intentionally, knowingly or recklessly fails to  
10 comply with this section and the accident resulted in serious bodily injury, as defined in  
11 Title 17-A, section 2, subsection 23, or death.

12 **Sec. 3. 29-A MRSA §2253, sub-§3**, as enacted by PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 and  
13 affected by Pt. B, §5, is amended to read:

14 **3. Violation.** A person commits a Class ~~E~~ D crime if that person fails to comply  
15 with this section.

16 **SUMMARY**

17 Under current law, a person who is involved in an accident and who fails to stop or  
18 leaves the scene of the accident commits a Class E crime for accidents involving damage  
19 to the vehicle, a Class D crime for accidents involving personal injury or death and a  
20 Class C crime if the person intentionally, knowingly or recklessly leaves the scene of an  
21 accident involving serious bodily injury or death. This bill increases the penalty class for  
22 each crime to a Class D, Class C and Class B crime, respectively.