

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

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Legislative Document

No. 575

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H.P. 370

House of Representatives, February 14, 2023

### **An Act Regarding a Seat Belt Exemption for Persons with a Medical Condition**

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Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.

  
ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative POIRIER of Skowhegan.  
Cosponsored by Representatives: ANDREWS of Paris, COLLAMORE of Pittsfield,  
CYRWAY of Albion, HENDERSON of Rumford, QUINT of Hodgdon, RUDNICKI of  
Fairfield, THORNE of Carmel, WHITE of Guilford.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 29-A MRSA §2081, sub-§4, ¶A-1**, as amended by PL 2009, c. 436, §1, is  
3 further amended to read:

4 A-1. The requirements of subsection 3-A do not apply to a driver or passenger who  
5 has a medical condition that, in the opinion of a physician, warrants an exemption from  
6 the requirements of subsection 3-A and that medical condition and opinion are  
7 documented by a certificate from that physician. ~~That certificate is valid for the period~~  
8 ~~designated by the physician, which may not exceed one year.~~ The physician shall  
9 designate the duration of the applicant's medical condition not to exceed 6 years or  
10 designate the applicant's medical condition as permanent. The Secretary of State may  
11 issue a removable windshield placard that is visible to law enforcement officers to a  
12 person with a certificate from a physician. A removable windshield placard is a 2-  
13 sided permit designed to hang from the rearview mirror when the vehicle is in motion  
14 without obstructing the view of the operator. The placard must be displayed by hanging  
15 it from the rearview mirror so that it may be viewed from the front and rear of the  
16 vehicle when the vehicle is in motion. If the vehicle is not equipped with a rearview  
17 mirror, the placard must be displayed on the dashboard. The placard must be  
18 identifiable as a seat belt placard as designed by the Secretary of State. A placard  
19 issued to a person under this paragraph expires when the physician's certificate expires.

20 **SUMMARY**

21 This bill allows a physician, for the purpose of allowing an exemption from the seat  
22 belt requirements for adult drivers and passengers, to designate the duration of the  
23 applicant's medical condition not to exceed 6 years or designate the applicant's medical  
24 condition as permanent.