

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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EIGHTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE

House Document

No. 66

H. P. 279

House of Representatives, Feb. 3, 1927.

Referred to committee on judiciary and 500 copies ordered printed. Sent up for concurrence.

CLYDE R. CHAPMAN, Clerk.

Presented by Mr. Morrill of Gray.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND NINE
HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SEVEN

AN ACT Defining and Restricting the Powers and Duties of
the State Highway Police.

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

Section two of chapter one hundred forty-four of the public laws of nineteen hundred twenty-five, is hereby amended by striking out the whole of said section and inserting in place thereof the following:

'Sect. 2. The state highway police shall patrol the state highways and other important ways especially outside the compact portions of cities and towns, for the purpose of enforcing the provisions of this act and all laws relating to motor driven and horse drawn vehicles, and all rules and regulations in regard thereto, and shall have power to arrest

7 all violators of the highway and motor vehicle laws and to
8 prosecute all offenders against the same. The members of
9 the state highway police shall have the same power to serve
10 criminal processes against such offenders of the highway
11 and motor vehicle laws as sheriffs; and the power to ar-
12 rest and detain, while patrolling the highways, any person
13 or persons, found violating or attempting to violate any oth-
14 er penal law of the state, until a legal warrant can be ob-
15 tained. They shall immediately report by telephone or other
16 expeditious means to the proper authorities, all information
17 and complaints by them received concerning the commission
18 of any crime, and shall have the right to require aid in exe-
19 cuting their duties as highway police. They shall serve any
20 subpoenas issued by the secretary of state or the state high-
21 way commission under authority of this act or chapter two
22 hundred eleven of the public laws of nineteen hundred
23 twenty-one, and acts amendatory thereof.

Upon information from the governor, attorney general,
2 sheriff of a county, a county attorney, warden of the state
3 prison, or superintendent of a state hospital, that a felony
4 may have been committed, or that one held in custody by
5 authority of law has escaped, or that some public emergency
6 has arisen due to fire, suspected riot, epidemic or other se-
7 rious event, the members of the highway police shall render
8 such assistance as may be necessary to preserve the public
9 peace, health and safety; and shall have, under such cir-
10 cumstances, and not otherwise, the same power to enforce

11 laws other than the motor vehicle and highway laws as
12 sheriffs. It shall be the duty of the highway police imme-
13 diately after receiving such information to co-operate with
14 the informing official, sheriffs, deputy sheriffs, constables,
15 city marshals, and police officers, for the detection of crime,
16 arrest and prosecution of criminals, or the preservation of
17 law and order.'