

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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E I G H T Y - E I G H T H L E G I S L A T U R E

Legislative Document

No. 600

S. P. 339

In Senate, February 16, 1937.

Referred to Committee on Judiciary and 1,000 copies ordered printed.
Sent down for concurrence.

ROYDEN V. BROWN, Secretary.

Presented by Senator Marden of Kennebec.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
THIRTY-SEVEN

AN ACT to Promote Highway Safety.

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

R. S., c. 29, additional. Chapter 29 of the revised statutes is hereby amended by adding thereto new sections to be numbered from 33-B to 33-E, inclusive, and to read as follows:

'Sec. 33-B. Requisite minimal powers of eyesight. No license to operate a motor vehicle shall be granted until an applicant furnishes proof of possessing, with or without the aid of spectacles, minimal powers of eyesight to enable him or her to operate a motor vehicle on the highways of this state with a reasonable degree of safety. Such proof may be given either (a) in the form of an affidavit from a licensed optometrist practising in this state, or (b) by taking a visual test according to rules formulated by the secretary of state.

'Sec. 33-C. Proof of eyesight submitted. Proof of continuing visual ability must be submitted every 5 years by a licensed motor vehicle operator by either of the methods given in paragraph 33-B. No renewal of license shall be issued on each 5th year of renewal without such proof of continuing visual ability, either with or without spectacles.

'Sec. 33-D. Visual acuity of 20/40 requisite. No person with a visual acuity of less than 20/40, using both eyes, and either assisted or unassisted by the use of glasses, shall be granted a license or renewal of a license in the 5th year, provided, however, that an applicant taking a visual test and failing because of uncorrected defects in vision is eligible to make a new application immediately when such visual defects are corrected. Visual tests for acuity are to be made under rules formulated by the secretary of state based upon the standard Snellen chart or modifications of that chart.

'Sec. 33-E. Other defects. If the visual examiner of the secretary of state is led to believe that an applicant has eye defects other than those of visual acuity that may seriously affect the applicant's ability to operate a motor vehicle upon the public highways with a reasonable degree of safety, the applicant shall then be required to furnish an affidavit from a licensed optometrist practising in this state certifying that such defects either (a) have been corrected, or (b) if uncorrected, will not render the applicant a hazard to highway safety. When an affidavit of a practising optometrist shows that an applicant has gross astigmatism, color blindness, photophobia, or a field of vision of less than 140 degrees using 2 eyes, or 1 eye in the case of a person with sight in but 1 eye, a record of such defects shall be made on the application form filed by the applicant.'