

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

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N I N E T I E T H            L E G I S L A T U R E

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 1236**

S. P. 604

In Senate, January 14, 1942.

Referred to Committee on Judiciary. Sent down for concurrence and 600 copies ordered printed.

ROYDEN V. BROWN, Secretary.

Presented by Senator Bishop of Sagadahoc.

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STATE OF MAINE

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
FORTY-TWO

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**AN ACT** Relating to the Filing of Reports by Drivers Involved in Motor  
Vehicle Accidents.

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**Emergency preamble.** Whereas, a state of war exists between the United States and Germany, Italy, Japan and other foreign countries; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the legislature this fact creates an emergency within the meaning of section 16 of Article XXXI of the constitution of Maine and requires the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

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

**R. S., c. 29, § 128, amended.** Section 128 of chapter 29 of the revised statutes, as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

**'Sec. 128. Driver of any vehicle involved in accident to report.** (a) The ~~chief of the state police~~ secretary of state shall prepare and shall on request supply to police and sheriffs' offices and other suitable agencies forms of accident reports calling for sufficiently detailed information to disclose with reference to a highway accident the cause, conditions then existing and the persons and vehicles involved.

~~(b) The chief of the state police shall receive accident reports required to be made by law and shall tabulate and analyse such reports and may publish annually or at more frequent intervals statistical information based thereon as to the number, cause and location of highway accidents.~~

~~(e)~~ (b) The driver of any vehicle involved in an accident resulting in injuries or death to any person, or property damage to an apparent extent of \$50 or more shall, immediately forward a report of such accident to the ~~chief of the state police~~ **secretary of state** or forthwith deliver the same to some state police officer, who shall so forward the same to said ~~chief~~ **secretary**. The ~~chief~~ **secretary** may require drivers, involved in accidents, to file supplemental reports of accidents upon forms furnished by him whenever the original report is insufficient in the opinion of the ~~chief~~ **secretary**. Such reports shall be without prejudice, and the fact that such reports have been so made shall be admissible in evidence solely to prove a compliance with this section, **and for the purposes of the secretary of state in administration of the financial responsibility law**, but no such report or any part thereof or statement contained therein shall be admissible in evidence for any other purpose in any trial, civil or criminal, arising out of such accident.'

**Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this act shall take effect when approved.