

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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N I N E T Y - S E C O N D L E G I S L A T U R E

Legislative Document

No. 702

H. P. 1189

House of Representatives, February 13, 1945.

Referred to the Committee on Judiciary, sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk.

Presented by Mr. Plummer of Lisbon.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
FORTY-FIVE

AN ACT Relating to Reporting by Drivers Involved in Accidents.

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

R. S., c. 13, § 6, repealed and replaced. Section 6 of chapter 13 of the revised statutes is hereby repealed and replaced to read as follows:

‘Sec. 6. Driver of any vehicle involved in accident to report. The chief of the state police 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. Every accident report required to be made in writing shall be made on the appropriate form furnished by the chief of the state police and shall contain all available information.

The chief of the state police shall receive accident reports required to be made by law and shall tabulate and analyze 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.

The driver of any vehicle involved in an accident resulting in injuries to or death of any person, or property damage to an apparent extent of \$50 or more, or some person acting for him, shall immediately by the quickest

means of communication, give notice of the accident to a state police officer, sheriff, or other police official, or to the local police department, when the accident occurs within a municipality, and every such notice received by any police official or department shall be promptly investigated.

Every law enforcement officer who investigates a motor vehicle accident of which report must be made, either at the time of and at the scene of the accident or thereafter and elsewhere by interviewing participants or witnesses, shall, within 48 hours after completing the investigation, forward a written report of the accident to the chief of the state police.

All accident reports made by investigating officers shall be for the purpose of a statistical analysis of such reports and for accident prevention purposes and shall not be used as evidence in any trial, civil or criminal, arising out of such accident, but the chief of the state police may disclose, upon request of any person, the date, time, location of the accident and the names and addresses of drivers, owners, injured persons, witnesses and the investigating officer. Provided further, the chief may, upon written request, furnish a photocopy of any report at the expense of such person making the request.

The driver of any vehicle involved in an accident resulting in injury to or death of any person or property damage to the amount of \$50 or more, or some person acting for him, shall, within 48 hours after the accident, make a written report of it to the chief of the state police. The chief may require drivers of a vehicle involved in any accident of which report must be made, to file supplemental reports of accidents whenever the original report is insufficient in the opinion of the chief.

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, but no 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.

Failure to report an accident as required or wilful failure to give correctly the information required of him by the chief of the state police in connection with any requisite report shall be a misdemeanor and shall constitute a ground for suspension or revocation by the secretary of state of the operator's license and all certificates of registration of all motor vehicles or of both, of the person failing to make the report.

Failure of a non-resident to report an accident as required shall constitute sufficient grounds for suspension or revocation by the secretary of

state, of his privileges of operating a motor vehicle in this state and of the operation within this state of any motor vehicle owned by him.'