

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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NINETY - SECOND L E G I S L A T U R E

Legislative Document

No. 1133

H. P. 1444

House of Representatives, April 5, 1945.

Reported by Mr. Williams from the Committee on Judiciary and laid on table to be printed under the Joint Rules.

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk.

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R. S., c. 13, § 6, repealed and replaced. Section 6 of chapter 13 of the revised statutes is hereby repealed and replaced to read as follows: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 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 the estimated amount of \$50 or more, or some person acting for him, shall, immediately by the quickest

means of communication, give notice of the accident either to a state police officer, sheriff, or other police official, or to the police department of the municipality wherein the accident occurred. Every such notice received by any such official or department shall be promptly investigated.

Every law enforcement officer who investigates a motor vehicle accident of which report is required, shall, either at the time and scene of the accident or elsewhere, interview participants and witnesses and shall, within 48 hours after completing the investigation, transmit his written report to the chief of the state police.

All accident reports made by investigating officers shall be for the purpose of a statistical analysis and for accident prevention purposes and shall not be admissible in 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. The chief may also upon written request, furnish a photocopy of any report at the expense of the 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 estimated 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 vehicles involved in any such accident to file supplemental reports whenever the original report is insufficient in the opinion of the chief.

Every report shall be without prejudice and the fact that it was 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, or statement made, or testimony taken at any hearing before the secretary of state or any of his deputies held under the provisions of section 4 of chapter 19, or decision made as a result thereof, shall be admissible in evidence for any purpose in any trial, civil or criminal, arising out of such accident.

Whoever is required to make a report as herein provided and fails to do so, or wilfully fails to give correct information required of him by the chief of the state police pertinent to any requisite report shall be deemed answerable to the secretary of state, and the secretary for either of said causes may suspend or revoke the operator's license of such person or the certificate of registration, or both, of any or all motor vehicles owned by him; and on like failure by a non-resident the secretary may suspend or

revoke the privileges of such non-resident to operate a motor vehicle in this state and the operation within this state of any motor vehicle owned by him.'