

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 1083**

H. P. 1728

House of Representatives, February 25, 1949.

Referred to Committee on Motor Vehicles. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk.

Presented by Mr. Hobbs of Acton.

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STATE OF MAINE

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
FORTY-NINE

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**AN ACT to Protect the Blind and Incapacitated Pedestrians on Public  
Streets and Highways.**

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

R. S., c. 19, §§ III-A-III-D, additional. Chapter 19 of the revised statutes, as amended, is hereby further amended by adding thereto 4 new sections to be numbered III-A to III-D, inclusive, to read as follows :

'Sec. III-A. Carrying of canes regulated. It is unlawful for any person, unless totally or partially blind or otherwise incapacitated, while on any public street or highway, to carry in a raised or extended position a cane or walking stick which is white in color or white tipped with red.

Sec. III-B. When motor vehicles to stop. Whenever a pedestrian is crossing or attempting to cross a public street or highway, guided by a guide dog or carrying in a raised or extended position a cane or walking stick which is white in color or white tipped with red, the driver of every vehicle approaching the intersection, or place where such pedestrian is attempting to cross, shall bring his vehicle to a full stop before arriving at such intersection or place of crossing, and before proceeding shall take such precautions as may be necessary to avoid injuring such pedestrian.

**Sec. III-C. Limitation.** Nothing contained in sections III-A to III-D, inclusive, shall be construed to deprive any totally or partially blind or otherwise incapacitated person, not carrying such a cane or walking stick or not being guided by a dog, of the rights and privileges conferred by law upon pedestrians crossing streets or highways, nor shall the failure of such totally or partially blind or otherwise incapacitated person to carry a cane or walking stick, or to be guided by a guide dog upon the streets, highways or sidewalks of this state, be held to constitute nor be evidence of contributory negligence.

**Sec. III-D. Penalty.** Any person who violates any provision of sections III-A to III-C, inclusive, shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$25 or imprisonment for not more than 10 days, or by both such fine and imprisonment.'