

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the  
**LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY**  
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library  
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied  
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

**LAWS**  
OF THE  
**STATE OF MAINE**  
AS PASSED BY THE

**ONE HUNDRED AND TENTH LEGISLATURE**

**FIRST REGULAR SESSION**  
December 3, 1980 to June 19, 1981

**AND AT THE**

**FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**  
August 3, 1981

**PUBLISHED BY THE DIRECTOR OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH IN  
ACCORDANCE WITH MAINE REVISED STATUTES ANNOTATED, TITLE  
3, SECTION 164, SUBSECTION 6.**

---

**K.J. Printing Co.**  
Augusta, Maine  
1981

---

---

**PUBLIC LAWS**  
OF THE  
**STATE OF MAINE**

AS PASSED AT THE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

of the  
ONE HUNDRED AND TENTH LEGISLATURE

1981

---

---

## CHAPTER 293

S. P. 172 — L. D. 422

## AN ACT to Amend the Maine Consumer Credit Code.

**Emergency preamble.** Whereas, Acts of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, the maximum interest rate on consumer credit sales of new motor vehicles will revert from 18% to 13% on June 1, 1981; and

Whereas, a maximum interest rate of 13% would be highly detrimental to sellers and consumers alike because it would, in view of current economic conditions, severely restrict the ready availability of credit for new motor vehicle purchases; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require 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:**

**Sec. 1.** 9-A MRSA § 2-201, sub-§ 9, ¶ A, as repealed and replaced by PL 1979, c. 661, § 1, is amended to read:

A. On any new motor vehicle designated by the manufacturer by a year model not earlier than the year in which the sale is made, ~~13%~~ 18% per year on the unpaid balances of the amount financed;

**Sec. 2.** 9-A MRSA § 2-502, sub-§ 1, first sentence, as enacted by PL 1973, c. 762, § 1, is amended to read:

With respect to a precomputed consumer credit transaction **and a consumer lease**, the parties may contract for a delinquency charge on any installment not paid in full within 15 days after its scheduled or deferred due date in an amount not exceeding the greater of:

**Sec. 3.** 9-A MRSA § 3-202, as enacted by PL 1973, c. 762, § 1, is amended to read:

**§ 3-202. Notice to consumer**

A written agreement which requires or provides for the signature of the consumer and which evidences a consumer credit transaction other than one pursuant to open-end credit shall contain a clear, conspicuous and printed notice to the consumer that he should not sign the agreement before reading it, and that

he is entitled to a copy of the agreement ~~and the prepay the unpaid balance at any time without penalty, except for minimum charges as permitted by law.~~ The following notice, if clearly and conspicuously printed, complies with this section:

NOTICE TO CONSUMER: 1. Do not sign this agreement before you read it. 2. You are entitled to a copy of this agreement. ~~3. You may prepay the unpaid balance at any time without penalty, except for minimum charges as permitted by law~~

Sec. 4. 9-A MRSA § 3-402, as enacted by PL 1973, c. 762, § 1, is amended to read:

**§ 3-402. Limitation on default charges**

Except for reasonable expenses incurred in realizing on a security interest, **other than a consumer lease**, the agreement with respect to a consumer credit transaction may not provide for any charges as a result of default by the consumer other than those authorized by this Act. A provision in violation of this section is unenforceable.

**Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this Act shall take effect on June 1, 1981.

Effective June 1, 1981

---

---

## CHAPTER 294

S. P. 370 — L. D. 1112

### AN ACT Concerning the Transfer of Funds from One Appropriation to Another Appropriation.

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

5 MRSA § 1585, sub-§ 2, ¶¶ A and B, as repealed and replaced by PL 1977, c. 696, § 43, are amended to read:

A. ~~\$100,000~~ \$50,000; or

B. ~~10%~~ 5% of the appropriation or subdivision in the appropriation, as approved by the Legislature, from which or to which the funds are to be transferred.

Effective September 18, 1981