

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**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.**

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

AS PASSED AT THE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

of the  
ONE HUNDRED AND TENTH LEGISLATURE

1981

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4. **Right to receive upon request.** Any insurance company providing information to an authorized agency pursuant to this section shall have the right, upon request, to receive other information relevant to the fire loss, from such authorized agency, within 30 days.

5. **Immunity.** Any insurance company, or person acting on its behalf, or authorized agency which releases information pursuant to this section, is immune from civil or criminal liability.

§ 2413. Evidence

1. **Confidentiality.** Any authorized agency or insurance company which receives any information pursuant to this chapter shall hold it in confidence and not release the information, except to another authorized agency, until its release is required for a criminal or civil proceeding.

2. **Testimony.** Personnel of any authorized agency may be required to testify by subpoena in any litigation in which the insurance company at interest is named as a party.

Effective September 18, 1981

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## CHAPTER 405

H. P. 1360 — L. D. 1545

### AN ACT to Encourage Motorists to Protect Children in Motor Vehicles by Use of Approved Child Safety Seats.

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

29 MRSA § 1368-B is enacted to read:

§ 1368-B. Use of approved child safety seats

1. **Use of seats.** The Legislature finds and declares that in Maine each year motor vehicle accidents are the leading cause of death and a major cause of disability among children under 4 years of age.

A multiplicity of field studies confirm that a majority of serious injuries and deaths would be avoided if child passengers were properly restrained by using child safety seats. Notwithstanding this fact, current seat restraint utilization rates among children are typically less than 10%, making this a promising area for the reduction of deaths and serious injuries among children.

In futherance of reasonable protective public policies, the Commissioner of Public

Safety shall develop and implement a public information and education program designed to encourage seat restraint utilization for children under 4 years of age who are passengers in motor vehicles.

The program shall include, but not be limited to, audiovisual aids and written materials which explain the effects of motor vehicle accidents on infant and child health and the reduction in risk of injury or death as a result of the utilization of seat restraints for infants and children. In addition, the commissioner shall prepare and disseminate radio and television messages, which explain the effects of motor vehicle accidents on infant and child health and urge the use of seat restraints for infants and children.

The commissioner shall also enter into an arrangement with appropriate law enforcement agencies to issue, at their discretion, oral or written safety information to any person who operates any motor vehicle, or combination of vehicles, if, after the vehicle has been stopped, the law enforcement officer observes that a child under 4 years of age is a passenger and is not restrained by use of an available seat restraint. The law enforcement officers may also advise and urge the utilization of seat restraints that are available in the vehicle, and may further note that even greater protection could be provided by acquiring and properly utilizing separate federally-approved child seats.

The commissioner shall conduct a study to ascertain the nature and extent of any reduction in the number and rate of injury and death of children under 4 years of age who are passengers in motor vehicles during the period of the public education campaign.

The commissioner shall prepare and submit a report to the Legislature, no later than March 1, 1983, containing findings and conclusions regarding the implementation and effectiveness of this section. The report shall also include specific findings and conclusions as to the advisability of further legislation to encourage the use of safety seats and seatbelts for Maines children.

2. Termination. This section shall remain in effect only until June 30, 1983, and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted statute deletes or extends this date.

Effective September 18, 1981

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## CHAPTER 406

### H. P. 1094 — L. D. 1291

#### AN ACT to Improve the Efficiency of County Government.

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