

PLEASE NOTE: Legislative Information **cannot** perform research, provide legal advice, or interpret Maine law. For legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.

## **An Act Concerning Maine's Highway Safety Laws**

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

**Sec. 1. 23 MRSA §4208, first ¶,** as amended by PL 1989, c. 616, §1, is further amended to read:

The Department of Public Safety is authorized to conduct defensive driving courses for the purpose of promoting highway safety and to charge a registration fee of ~~\$20~~\$35 to participants in the defensive driving courses conducted under the auspices of the department. The fee ~~shall~~must be used to cover the cost of conducting the courses. Any balances remaining at the end of the fiscal year ~~shall~~may not lapse but ~~shall~~must be carried forward to be used for the purposes stated in this section.

**Sec. 2. 29-A MRSA §2081, sub-§3, ¶B,** as amended by PL 2003, c. 380, §3 and affected by §5, is further amended to read:

B. The operator shall ensure that a child who is less than 18 years of age and at least 8 years of age or who is less than 18 years of age and more than 4 feet, 79 inches in height is properly secured in a seat belt.

### **SUMMARY**

This bill increases the registration fee for participation in defensive driving courses. The bill also increases the minimum height requirement a person less than 18 years of age must meet to use a seat belt instead of a child restraint system; this change makes Maine law consistent with federal requirements.