

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

An Act To Strengthen Maine's Distracted-driving Penalties

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

Sec. 1. 29-A MRS §2419 is enacted to read:

§ 2419. Distracted driving

1. Distracted driving. A person may not operate a motor vehicle while distracted. For purposes of this section, "distracted" means operating a motor vehicle while engaged in an activity not related to the actual operation of a motor vehicle in a manner that interferes with the safe operation of the vehicle on a highway.

2. Violation. A person is guilty of distracted driving if that person operates, with criminal negligence as defined in Title 17-A, section 35, a motor vehicle while distracted.

3. Penalty. A violation of this section is a Class E crime that, notwithstanding Title 17-A, section 1301, is punishable by a fine of not less than \$300 for the first offense and a mandatory 30-day suspension of a driver's license for a 2nd offense occurring within 3 years of the first offense.

SUMMARY

The bill defines "distracted" and makes it a Class E crime to drive while distracted. The bill also imposes a fine of \$300 for the first offense of driving while distracted and a suspension of a person's license for 30 days for a 2nd offense within 3 years of the first offense.