



132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2025

Legislative Document

No. 1480

H.P. 972

House of Representatives, April 3, 2025

**An Act Regarding Exceptions for Persons Learning to Drive Who
Have Not Yet Completed a Driver Education Course**

Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.

Robert B. Hunt
ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative MASTRACCIO of Sanford.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §8702**, as amended by PL 1995, c. 402, Pt. A, §47; repealed
3 and replaced by PL 1995, c. 505, §5 and affected by §22; and amended by PL 2003, c. 545,
4 §4, is further amended to read:

5 **§8702. Curriculum**

6 A driver education course offered in accordance with section 8701 must meet the
7 curriculum requirements prescribed by the Secretary of State; include both classroom
8 instruction and practice driving, except that an adult education program may offer a driver
9 education course that includes only classroom instruction for the purpose of issuing a
10 learner's permit under Title 29-A, section 1304, subsection 1-C; and be approved by the
11 Secretary of State. Any state subsidy, state reimbursement for expenditures on adult
12 education programs or state reimbursement for adult career and technical education
13 programs may not be paid with respect to any driver education course that has not been
14 approved by the Secretary of State.

15 **Sec. 2. 29-A MRSA §1304, sub-§1, ¶A-1** is enacted to read:

16 A-1. Notwithstanding paragraph A, a person who is 15 1/2 years of age or older, has
17 not attained 18 years of age, has not completed a course in driver education and has
18 successfully passed all parts of an examination other than the driving test may apply
19 for a learner's permit pursuant to subsection 1-B.

20 **Sec. 3. 29-A MRSA §1304, sub-§1, ¶J** is enacted to read:

21 J. A person who is at least 18 years of age may apply for a learner's permit or be issued
22 a learner's permit through an adult education program pursuant to subsection 1-C.

23 **Sec. 4. 29-A MRSA §1304, sub-§1-B** is enacted to read:

24 **1-B. Learner's permit; exception to driver education for issuance.**
25 Notwithstanding subsection 1, paragraphs A, B and E, a person who is 15 1/2 years of age
26 or older, has not attained 18 years of age, has successfully passed all parts of an examination
27 other than the driving test and has not completed a course in driver education may apply
28 for a learner's permit for the purposes of learning how to drive as long as the requirements
29 of this subsection are met.

30 A. Unless the permittee is operating a motorcycle or moped, the learner's permit
31 requires the permittee to be accompanied by a licensed operator who:

- 32 (1) Is a parent or guardian of the permittee or another responsible adult;
33 (2) Has held a valid license for at least 2 years;
34 (3) Is at least 25 years of age;
35 (4) Is occupying a seat beside the driver; and
36 (5) Is licensed to operate the class vehicle operated by the permittee.

37 The accompanying operator must adhere to all restrictions applied to the license when
38 functioning as the permittee's accompanying operator.

39 B. The licensed operator accompanying the permittee pursuant to paragraph A is liable
40 for any violation of this Title by the permittee.

