



132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2025

Legislative Document

No. 1886

H.P. 1257

House of Representatives, May 5, 2025

**An Act Regarding Penalties for Violation of the Law Governing
Distracted Driving When the Violation Results in the Death or
Significant Injury of Another Person**

Received by the Clerk of the House on May 1, 2025. Referred to the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Robert B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative LEMELIN of Chelsea.

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

Sec. 1. 29-A MRSA §2118, sub-§3 is enacted to read:

3. Penalties. The following penalties apply to a violation of this section.

A. If a person violates this section and the State proves that the person's violation of this section caused significant injury to another person, the violator's license may be suspended for a period of 180 days. The court may order a suspension for a period that is less than 180 days if the court finds that a shorter period of suspension is appropriate due to extenuating circumstances.

B. If a person violates this section and the State proves that the person's violation of this section caused the death of another person, the violator's license may be suspended for a period of one to 3 years. The court may order a suspension for a period that is less than one year if the court finds that a shorter period of suspension is appropriate due to extenuating circumstances.

The court shall apply Title 17-A, section 33 in assessing causation under this subsection.

SUMMARY

This bill amends provisions of law relating to distracted driving by establishing specific penalties for committing the traffic infraction of failure to maintain control of a motor vehicle. If the State proves that a driver's commission of the traffic infraction caused a significant injury to another person, the court may order a suspension of the driver's license for a period of 180 days. If the State proves that a driver's commission of the traffic infraction caused the death of another person, the court may order a suspension of the driver's license for a period of one to 3 years. In either case, the court may order a suspension for a shorter period if the court finds that a shorter suspension is appropriate due to extenuating circumstances.