

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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State of Maine

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hard-working team that has earned every bit of success they've had. Other teams look to Bonny Eagle as a model of how to build a strong, respected and successful team. The young men here today are a shining example of what it means to be a team, and I couldn't be more proud to see them in this Chamber today. Thank you.

The Sentiment was **PASSED** and sent for concurrence.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

Divided Report

Majority Report of the Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-9)** on Bill "An Act To Modify the Laws Regarding Seat Belts"

(S.P. 71) (L.D. 221)

Signed:

Senator:

DAMON of Hancock

Representatives:

MAZUREK of Rockland
PEOPLES of Westbrook
HARLOW of Portland
CAREY of Lewiston
BROWNE of Vassalboro

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

GOOLEY of Franklin

Representatives:

HOGAN of Old Orchard Beach
THERIAULT of Madawaska
CEBRA of Naples
ROSEN of Bucksport

Came from the Senate with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-9)**.

READ.

Representative MAZUREK of Rockland moved that the House **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Rockland, Representative Mazurek.

Representative **MAZUREK**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. This is just a point of clarification: This bill deals with, it says, regarding seatbelts only applies to those people who are delivering newspapers. In other words, people who are constantly in and out of their car in the mornings, 150 times. This is what it applies to, so I want to make that point clear. Thank you.

Subsequently, the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (S-9)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**. The Bill was assigned for **SECOND READING** Tuesday, April 7, 2009.

Majority Report of the Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act To Prohibit Certain Uses of Cellular Telephones and Handheld Electronic Devices while Operating a Motor Vehicle"

(H.P. 35) (L.D. 40)

Signed:

Senators:

DAMON of Hancock
PERRY of Penobscot
GOOLEY of Franklin

Representatives:

MAZUREK of Rockland
PEOPLES of Westbrook
THERIAULT of Madawaska
HARLOW of Portland
CAREY of Lewiston
BROWNE of Vassalboro
THOMAS of Ripley
CEBRA of Naples
ROSEN of Bucksport

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-31)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Representative:

HOGAN of Old Orchard Beach

READ.

Representative MAZUREK of Rockland moved that the House **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Old Orchard Beach, Representative Hogan.

Representative **HOGAN**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I rise to speak in opposition to the motion. Obviously, this is a 9-1 vote and the odds of me prevailing here is not great, but I have to do this. I have to do it for me, and I have to do this for all of those people that came to our hearing.

The day of the hearing, the room was completely filled with citizens, unsolicited. They were there on their own. Also, there were two smaller rooms that were also filled, and then we would bring them in, in groups. Every single one of them, without exception, said support this bill. That is the general public, that is the public that we serve.

The lobbyists, the lobbyists normally come out big-time against any prohibiting of cell phones. This time, every lobbyist did support the prohibiting of handheld cell phones. The State Police; State Police at least recognize that yes, we have a problem. They clearly stated that. Then they passed out this information that they got from a study from NHTSA, which states a whole bunch of facts, and just let me give you a few of them: Certainly, one of them is drivers using cell phones are four times likely to get in a crash. Then again, texting is another issue that I will be talking about in just a little bit here. But they also said that drivers using a cell phone are 400 percent times distracted as others.

Ladies and Gentlemen, we are turning our cars into something other than safe vehicles. We are turning our cars, in some sense, into our offices. We think that we have the right or the ability. We do have the right; we have the ability to get into our car, take our hands off the wheel, text, cell phone, do any number of things that create a distracted driver. Every study,