

# Trooper accused of giving false report

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PORTLAND — A Maine State Police trooper has been suspended without pay because of a charge that he falsified information in an accident report submitted to the Secretary of State's Office in January.

Trooper John V. Scheid, 42, faces a misdemeanor charge of giving a false statement in a traffic accident report, according to David Lauren, special assistant to Attorney General Andrew Ketterer.

Scheid, a 19-year state police veteran who most recently patrolled the Maine Turnpike, was charged on May 14, according to court records at Augusta District Court.

He was placed on unpaid leave May 17 pending the outcome of the case, said Stephen McCausland, state police spokesman. Scheid has not been arraigned and no date for his initial court appearance has been set.

Lauren declined to say what in-

formation was allegedly falsified in the Jan. 31 report. There were no details in the documents filed in connection with the case in Augusta District Court. Neither Scheid nor his lawyer, Gene Libby, could be reached Thursday to comment.

Scheid, of Windsor, said in the report that he was driving alone in his 1994 Nissan sedan on Route 32 in Vassalboro when a deer ran into the road and collided with the vehicle, according to a copy of the report.

The report said Scheid then hit a patch of ice on the road, crossed the roadway and hit a rock, causing \$500 in damage to the front of the car. Scheid was not hurt.

Reports such as the one Scheid filed must be submitted to the Secretary of State's Office in all vehicular accidents when damage is estimated at \$500 or more.

More information about the charge is expected to be released as the case proceeds in court, Lauren said. Falsifying such a report is punishable by up to six months in jail and a \$1,000 fine.

