

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 117th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1995

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Legislative Document

No. 833

H.P. 623

House of Representatives, March 14, 1995

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### **An Act to Require One License Plate for a Motor Vehicle.**

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Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph W. Mayo".

JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative O'NEAL of Limestone. (By Request)  
Cosponsored by Representatives: AHEARNE of Madawaska, BRENNAN of Portland,  
KNEELAND of Easton, LAYTON of Cherryfield, WHEELER of Bridgewater, Senator:  
PARADIS of Aroostook.

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

2  
4       **Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §7, 4th ¶**, as repealed and replaced by PL 1969, c. 544, §1, is amended to read:

6       All state-owned vehicles, except as otherwise provided, shall ~~must~~ display a special registration ~~plates~~ plate, approved by the Secretary of State, plainly designating them as state-owned motor vehicles. They may in addition display a marker or insignia, approved by the Secretary of State, plainly designating them as state-owned. Motor vehicles used by departments, commissions or agencies charged by law with law enforcement or investigatory functions, if used for those purposes by personnel who have full-time law enforcement or investigatory duties, shall ~~are~~ are not be required to display a special registration plate.

18       **Sec. 2. 10 MRSA §1661-A**, as repealed and replaced by PL 1989, c. 83, §1, is amended to read:

20       **§1661-A. Gasoline stations to provide services for handicapped**  
22       **drivers**

24       Every full-service gasoline station offering self-service pumping at a lesser cost shall ~~require~~ must have an attendant employed by the station to dispense gasoline to any motor vehicle properly displaying a handicapped placard or a special designating ~~plates~~ plate issued under Title 29 ~~29-A~~, section 252 ~~521~~, when the person to whom the placard or ~~plates~~ plate has been issued is the operator of the vehicle, the service is requested, the operator has a driver's license designated with a code H, restricted to special equipment, and there is no nonhandicapped adult in the motor vehicle.

34       **Sec. 3. 12 MRSA §931**, as enacted by PL 1981, c. 13, is amended to read:

38       **§931. Access to state-owned parks, camping areas and beaches**

40       Any disabled veteran displaying on ~~his~~ a motor vehicle a special designating ~~plates~~ plate or placards issued in accordance with Title 29 ~~29-A~~, section 252-A ~~shall~~ 523 is not be assessed a fee for admission to any state-owned park, camping area or beach.

44       **Sec. 4. 23 MRSA §1980, sub-§2-A, ¶¶C and G**, as enacted by PL 1993, c. 698, §2, are amended to read:

48       C. The following procedures must be taken for the collection of tolls and civil penalties under this subsection.  
50

2 (1) The authority shall send a notice of liability by  
4 first class mail to a person alleged to be liable as a  
6 registered owner under this subsection no later than 60  
8 days after the alleged failure to pay. A manual or  
automatic record of the mailing prepared in the  
ordinary course of business of the authority is prima  
facie evidence of the mailing of the notice.

10 (2) A notice of liability must include the name and  
12 address of the person alleged to be liable as a  
14 registered owner for the failure to pay a toll under  
16 this subsection, the amount of the toll not paid, the  
registration number of the vehicle involved, the toll  
collection facility at which the failure occurred and  
the date and the approximate time of the failure.

18 (3) A notice of liability must include information  
20 advising the person liable under this subsection of the  
22 manner and the time in which the liability alleged in  
24 the notice may be contested and the statutory defenses  
26 described in paragraph E. The notice must also include  
28 a warning that failure to contest in the manner and  
time provided is an admission of liability and a waiver  
of available defenses, resulting in the entry of a  
default judgment of liability for the failure to pay  
and revocation of the registration certificate and  
plates plate issued for the vehicle.

30 (4) The authority may collect a toll and a civil  
32 penalty that is not paid by a registered owner who is  
34 liable under this subsection within 120 days after  
36 mailing the notice of liability by civil action  
38 commenced in the District Court or Superior Court in  
the county in which the alleged failure to pay  
occurred. Adjudication of liability under this  
subsection is based upon a preponderance of the  
evidence.

40 G. If a registered owner does not satisfy a judgment under  
42 this subsection within 30 days after final adjudication of  
44 liability under paragraph C, in addition to any other method  
46 for enforcing the judgment, upon petition by the authority,  
the adjudicating court shall order the suspension of the  
48 registration for the vehicle involved in the failure to pay  
and forward the suspension to the Secretary of State. The  
Secretary of State shall proceed, in accordance with Title  
50 29 29-A, section 55-B 154, to mail the required 10-day  
notice and suspend the registration certificate and plates  
plate issued for the vehicle in question. A notice under

2 this paragraph is not effective with respect to a vehicle  
described in paragraph E, subparagraphs (1) to (4).

4 **Sec. 5. 29-A MRSA §101, sub-§61**, as enacted by PL 1993, c.  
683, Pt. A, §2 and affected by Pt. B, §5, is amended to read:

6 **61. Registration.** "Registration" means the registration  
8 certificate, plates plate and renewal devices pertaining to the  
registration of a vehicle, including temporary registered gross  
10 weight increases.

12 **Sec. 6. 29-A MRSA §403, sub-§§2 and 3**, as enacted by PL 1993,  
c. 683, Pt. A, §2 and affected by Pt. B, §5, are amended to read:

14 **2. Suspension.** If the owner of a motor vehicle subject to  
16 the requirement of subsection 1 fails to present a certificate of  
compliance or waiver, the Secretary of State shall suspend the  
18 registration certificate and plates plate for that motor  
vehicle. The suspension must continue until the owner of the  
20 motor vehicle presents a certificate of compliance or waiver to  
the Secretary of State or an authorized agent.

22 **3. Penalty.** The owner of a motor vehicle with a  
24 registration certificate and plates plate suspended pursuant to  
subsection 2 may not permit that motor vehicle to be operated on  
26 a public way or parking area. A violation of this subsection is  
a traffic infraction for which a forfeiture must be assessed. If  
28 the model year of the motor vehicle is 1981 or later, the  
forfeiture must be \$450. If the model year of the motor vehicle  
30 is earlier than 1981, the forfeiture must be \$125.

32 **Sec. 7. 29-A MRSA §405, sub-§3**, as enacted by PL 1993, c. 683,  
Pt. A, §2 and affected by Pt. B, §5, is amended to read:

34 **3. Early display of plate.** A number plate or suitable  
36 device furnished for the next registration period may be  
displayed on the first day of the month in which the current  
38 registration expires.

40 **Sec. 8. 29-A MRSA §451**, as enacted by PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A,  
§2 and affected by Pt. B, §5, is amended to read:

42 **§451. Issuance and form of registration plate**

44 **1. Authority to issue registration plates.** The Secretary  
46 of State shall provide a new general issue of registration plates  
periodically as determined by the Legislature. Each new general  
48 issue must be easily distinguishable by color from the preceding  
general issue.

2           **2. Furnishing registration plate.** The Secretary of State  
3 shall furnish a registration plates plate, without charge, with  
4 each registration except to dealers, manufacturers and holders of  
5 transporter registration plates.

6  
7           **3. Annual registration plate or devices.** The Secretary of  
8 State shall issue a new registration plates plate or a suitable  
9 device in lieu of a new registration plates plate each calendar  
10 year. The plate or device must clearly indicate the year or  
11 period for which it is issued. The Secretary of State may issue  
12 a permanent registration plates plate designed to provide for  
13 renewal by changing the expiration date without issuing a new  
14 registration plates plate. A device attached to the appropriate  
15 vehicle or registration plate is proper registration for the  
16 period specified.

17           **4. Registration plate design.** Registration plates must be  
18 designed as follows.

19  
20           A. Registration plates must bear the year of issue or the  
21 last 2 numerals of that year and the word "Maine" or the  
22 abbreviation "Me." in letters of at least 3/4 inch in height  
23 centered at the top of the registration plate.

24  
25           B. Except on motorcycle plates, registration plate numbers  
26 may not be substantially less than 3 inches high.

27  
28           C. On registration plates issued for private use and  
29 trucks, the word "Vacationland" must be centered at the  
30 bottom in letters not less than 3/4 inch in height.

31           D. A new registration plate must have:

32                   (1) A white background;

33                   (2) Identification numbers, letters and the border  
34 distinctly navy blue; and

35                   (3) An illustration of a lobster distinctly lobster  
36 red.

37  
38           **5. Special classes of registration plates.** A vehicle  
39 required to be registered in a special class under this Title may  
40 display only the number plates plate designed for that special  
41 class of registration.

42  
43           **6. Plates to be manufactured at State Prison.** The  
44 Secretary of State or the duly designated official in charge of  
45 vehicle registration shall purchase and cause to be installed at  
46

2 the State Prison the necessary equipment and materials for the  
3 production of all vehicle registration plates used in the State.  
4 Only plates that can not be produced at the prison may be  
5 purchased for state use.

6 The Warden of the State Prison shall have charge of operations at  
7 the State Prison relative to the manufacture of all plates made  
8 for the State. The Warden of the State Prison, with the consent  
9 of the Secretary of State, may employ for limited periods of time  
10 a supervisor for the purpose of instructing inmates in the  
11 operation of making such plates.

12 **7. Rules.** The Secretary of State may adopt rules to  
13 protect the integrity of registration plates or provide for the  
14 issue of replacement plates.

15 **Sec. 9. 29-A MRSA §452**, as enacted by PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A,  
16 §2 and affected by Pt. B, §5, is amended to read:

17 **§452. Manner of display**

18 **1. Position of registration plate.** A registration plate  
19 must be displayed horizontally. Only one ~~set~~ of Maine  
20 registration ~~plates~~ plate may be displayed on one vehicle. A The  
21 registration plate must be attached to ~~the front and~~ the rear of  
22 each vehicle except as follows.

23 A. A trailer ~~and~~ or semitrailer registration plate may be  
24 attached only to the rear of that trailer or semitrailer.

25 B. A motorcycle or motor-driven cycle registration plate  
26 may not be attached to the front of that motorcycle or  
27 motor-driven cycle.

28 C. A manufacturer, dealer or transporter registration plate  
29 may be attached only to the rear of the vehicle.

30 D. A truck tractor registration plate may be attached only  
31 to the ~~front~~ rear of that truck tractor.

32 **2. Farm trucks.** The registration plate for a farm truck or  
33 vehicle used for hauling forest products may be attached by means  
34 of a rigid or semirigid bracket that allows the plate to swing  
35 freely.

36 **3. Proper display; clean and visible.** ~~Registration-plates~~  
37 A registration plate must always be properly displayed. The  
38 ~~plates~~ plate, including the numbers, letters and words, must  
39 always be plainly visible and legible.

40  
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2           **Sec. 10. 29-A MRSA §453**, as enacted by PL 1993, c. 683, Pt.  
A, §2 and affected by Pt. B, §5, is amended to read:

4           **§453. Vanity registration plates**

6           **1. Vanity registration plates.** The Secretary of State may  
issue registration plates that contain letters or a combination  
8 of letters and numbers for automobiles, taxi cabs, limousines,  
pickup trucks, motorcycles, motor homes or trailers not to exceed  
10 2,000 pounds, whether semitrailers, 4-wheeled or camp trailers.  
The number of characters appearing on such a plate may not exceed  
12 7.

14           **2. Fee.** The annual service fee for a vanity registration  
plate is \$15 in addition to the regular motor vehicle  
16 registration fee. The service fee must be credited to the  
General Highway Fund. A sum sufficient to defray the cost of  
18 this program must be allocated annually from the General Highway  
Fund.

20           **3. Duplicate plate.** The Secretary of State may not issue a  
duplicate vanity registration ~~plates~~ plate for ~~trailers~~ a  
22 trailer, until the registrant has already been issued an  
identical vanity registration plate for an automobile. The  
24 Secretary of State may not issue duplicate vanity registration  
plates for taxicabs or limousines that are issued to  
26 automobiles. The Secretary of State may not issue duplicate  
vanity plates in the same class of vehicles.  
28

30           **4. Radio plate.** ~~Vanity A vanity~~ registration ~~plates~~ plate  
may be issued inscribed with official amateur radio call  
32 letters. ~~Applications An~~ an application for a radio ~~plates~~ plate  
must be accompanied by a notarized proof of ownership of a valid  
34 amateur radio station license issued by the Federal  
Communications Commission.  
36

38           **5. Facsimile plate.** The Secretary of State may issue a  
facsimile plate for a 60-day period during production of the  
semipermanent plate. The facsimile plate must be attached to the  
40 rear plate bracket.

42           **Sec. 11. 29-A MRSA §455**, as enacted by PL 1993, c. 683, Pt.  
A, §2 and affected by Pt. B, §5, is amended to read:

44           **§455. Environmental registration plate**

46           The Secretary of State shall issue Maine Environmental Trust  
48 Fund registration plates beginning April 1, 1994 in accordance  
with this section. ~~Environmental~~ An environmental registration  
50 ~~plates--are~~ plate is not required for registration of a motor



2 vehicle but ~~are to allow citizens~~ allows a citizen to participate  
3 voluntarily in the Maine Environmental Trust Fund program. A  
4 citizen may apply for an environmental registration ~~plates~~ plate  
5 and contribute to the Maine Environmental Trust Fund as provided  
6 in this section.

7  
8 **1. Issuance of environmental registration plate.** The  
9 Secretary of State, upon receiving an application and evidence of  
10 payment of the excise tax required by Title 36, the registration  
11 fee required by this Title and the contribution to the Maine  
12 Environmental Trust Fund provided for in subsection 4, shall  
13 issue a registration certificate and ~~a set of~~ an environmental  
14 registration ~~plates~~ plate to be used in lieu of the regular  
15 registration ~~plates~~ plate. The Secretary of State may issue an  
16 environmental registration ~~plates~~ plate to a vehicle in any  
17 registration class if the designated registration plate for that  
18 class does not preclude its use in conjunction with the  
19 environmental registration plate design.

20 **2. Plate design; optional environmental vanity plate.** The  
21 Secretary of State, the Commissioner of Conservation, the  
22 Commissioner of Environmental Protection and the Commissioner of  
23 Inland Fisheries and Wildlife in consultation with the joint  
24 standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over  
25 transportation matters shall determine the plate design.

26  
27 The design must accommodate the use of numbers and letters as  
28 provided in section 453. Upon request and as provided by section  
29 453, the Secretary of State shall issue environmental plates that  
30 are also vanity plates. Environmental vanity plates are issued  
31 in accordance with this section and section 453. The annual  
32 service fee of \$15 for vanity plates is credited to the Highway  
33 Fund.

34  
35 **3. Temporary facsimile plate.** The Secretary of State may  
36 issue a facsimile plate for temporary use up to a 60-day period  
37 until the permanent plate is received. The facsimile plate must  
38 be attached to the rear plate bracket.

39  
40 **4. Contribution to the Maine Environmental Trust Fund.** In  
41 addition to the regular motor vehicle registration fee prescribed  
42 by law for the particular class of vehicle registered, the annual  
43 contribution for an environmental registration ~~plates~~ plate is  
44 \$20, which must be deposited with the Treasurer of State and  
45 credited to the Maine Environmental Trust Fund established in  
46 Title 12, section 7759.

47  
48 **5. Reimbursement for production and issuance costs.** The  
49 Treasurer of State shall transfer annually from the Maine  
50 Environmental Trust Fund to the Secretary of State \$10 for each

2 ~~set--ef~~ environmental registration plates plate issued or  
renewed. This transfer is to reimburse the Secretary of State  
4 for costs associated with production and issuance of the ~~plates~~  
plate.

6 **Sec. 12. 29-A MRSA §456, sub-§1**, as enacted by PL 1993, c.  
683, Pt. A, §2 and affected by Pt. B, §5, is amended to read:

8  
10 **1. University of Maine System plate.** The Secretary of  
State, upon receiving an application and evidence of payment of  
12 the excise tax required by Title 36, section 1482, the  
registration fee required by section 501 and the administrative  
14 fee and voluntary contribution provided for in subsection 2,  
shall issue a registration certificate and a ~~set-of~~ University of  
16 Maine System registration ~~plates~~ plate to be used in lieu of ~~the~~  
regular registration ~~plates~~ plate. ~~These-plates~~ The plate must  
18 bear identification numbers and letters. The number of  
characters appearing on a plate may not exceed 7.

20 **Sec. 13. 29-A MRSA §457**, as enacted by PL 1993, c. 683, Pt.  
A, §2 and affected by Pt. B, §5, is amended to read:

22 **§457. Antique vehicle registration plate**

24  
26 **1. Antique vehicle registration plate authorized.** The  
Secretary of State may issue registration plates for antique  
autos, horseless carriages, street rods or antique motorcycles.  
28 ~~These-plates~~ The plate must bear the inscription "Maine" and the  
inscription "Antique Auto," "Horseless Carriage" or "Street Rod"  
30 or, for antique motorcycles, the inscription "Antique."

32 **2. Existing number plate.** An owner of an antique vehicle  
may keep an existing registration plate number for the new  
34 registration ~~plates~~ plate.

36 **3. Contemporary plate.** An owner of an antique auto,  
horseless carriage, street rod or antique motorcycle may use a  
38 registration ~~plates~~ plate that ~~were was~~ issued in the same year  
the antique vehicle was manufactured, as long as the motor  
40 vehicle:

- 42 A. Is over 25 years old;
- 44 B. Is registered as an antique vehicle; and
- 46 C. Carries a valid antique motor vehicle registration  
certificate and ~~plates~~ plate.

48  
50 **4. Display of contemporary plate.** ~~Contemporary A~~  
contemporary registration ~~plates~~ plate must ~~have-matching-plate~~

2 numbers, be affixed to both the front and rear of the vehicle and  
conspicuously bear the year of manufacture.

4 **5. Street rod standards.** The Chief of the State Police  
shall establish standards to qualify vehicles as street rods.  
6 These standards include:

8 A. The age of the vehicle;

10 B. The equipment and its condition;

12 C. Permissible modifications; and

14 D. Verification of membership in a qualified street rod  
owners organization.

16 **6. Application.** An application for registration of a  
18 vehicle under this section must be accompanied by an affidavit  
that includes a statement of the age and intended use of the  
20 motor vehicle and that the vehicle is garaged or maintained in  
the State. A person registering a street rod must furnish  
22 verification that the vehicle is a qualified street rod.

24 **7. Registration fee.** The fee for registration of an  
antique auto, horseless carriage or antique motorcycle is \$12.  
26 The fee for registration of a street rod is \$27.

28 **Sec. 14. 29-A MRSA §460**, as enacted by PL 1993, c. 683, Pt.  
A, §2 and affected by Pt. B, §5, is amended to read:

30 **§460. State officials**

32 **1. State official registration plate authorized.** The  
34 Secretary of State, on payment of taxes required in section 409,  
subsection 5 and fees required in section 501, subsections 1 and  
36 2 and upon application, shall issue ~~one--pair--of~~ a specially  
designed number ~~plates~~ plate for one designated motor vehicle  
38 owned or controlled by each member of the United States Senate or  
the United States House of Representatives from this State, or  
40 members of the Legislature, Representatives of the Indian Tribes  
at the Legislature, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of  
42 the House of Representatives, the Secretary of the Senate and the  
Clerk of the House of Representatives. A specially designed  
44 plate and its registration certificate may be used in place of  
the regular plate and registration. The named official may  
46 attach to such a motor vehicle ~~one--of~~ the valid registration  
~~plates~~ plate issued under section 451 and ~~one--of~~ the valid  
48 ~~registration~~ special registration ~~plates~~ plate issued under this  
section.

50

2           **2. Additional plate.** On request by a United States Senator  
or by a United States Representative, the Secretary of State, for  
4 a fee of \$2, shall issue an additional ~~pair-of~~ specially designed  
number ~~plates~~ plate for a 2nd designated motor vehicle owned or  
controlled by that member.

6  
8           **3. Period of validity.** An official plate is valid only  
while the member actually serves in the office for which the  
member is elected.

10  
12           **4. Design.** The Secretary of State shall determine the  
color, shape, size, lettering and numbering of the official  
14 registration plates, except the ~~plates~~ plate issued to a member  
of the House of Representatives, other than the Speaker of the  
House of Representatives, must bear the number of that House  
16 District, and ~~plates~~ the plate issued to a member of the Senate,  
other than the President of the Senate, must bear the number of  
18 that Senatorial District.

20           **Sec. 15. 29-A MRSA §461, sub-§1,** as enacted by PL 1993, c.  
683, Pt. A, §2 and affected by Pt. B, §5, is amended to read:

22  
24           **1. Plate issue year.** In a year in which new registration  
plates are issued, the Secretary of State shall reserve until  
26 July 1st the same registration number for the succeeding  
registration year for a person who notifies in writing the  
Secretary of State prior to May 1st of that person's desire to  
28 retain that registration number. The fee for retention of the  
same registration number is \$5.

30  
32           If a person does not have a vehicle to register on May 1st, a  
registration number may be held for a maximum of 2 registration  
34 years by depositing with the Secretary of State \$10 for each  
year; except that the registered owner of an antique vehicle may  
36 reserve the antique registration assigned to that person for 4  
years by depositing the sum of \$12 for each registration year.  
These fees are not refundable and may not be applied against the  
38 registration fee.

40           All numbers other than those reserved must be released and issued  
in rotation after July 1st.

42  
44           A person wishing to select a number out of rotation may do so by  
paying the registration fee and a reserved number fee of \$5.

46           A holder of a vanity registration ~~plates~~ plate must pay the sum  
of \$15 to reserve those letters or combination of letters and  
48 numbers, which is credited toward the renewal fee.

2           **Sec. 16. 29-A MRSA §§463 to 465**, as enacted by PL 1993, c.  
683, Pt. A, §2 and affected by Pt. B, §5, are amended to read:

4           **§463. Disposition of registration plate**

6           **1. Property of State.** Registration plates issued by the  
Secretary of State continue to be the property of the State.

8           **2. Expiration upon transfer or assignment.** When the owner  
10 of a vehicle transfers or assigns title or interest in a vehicle  
the registration expires.

12           **3. Return of registration plate and registration**  
14 **certificate.** When a registration certificate is suspended,  
revoked, canceled or has expired and the owner has no intention  
16 to renew or transfer within 6 months, the owner shall remove the  
registration plates plate and forward ~~them~~ the plate, along with  
18 the registration certificate, to the Secretary of State.

20           **4. Reassignment of registration number.** The registrant may  
request that plates a plate and the registration number be  
22 assigned in the registrant's name to another vehicle.

24           **5. Unauthorized taking of registration plate.** A person  
commits a Class E crime if that person steals, takes or carries  
26 away, without permission or authority, a registration plate from  
another person entitled to possession of that plate.

28           **§464. Unused registration plate**

30           An owner that returns a registration plates plate with an  
32 affidavit stating that ~~these plates have~~ the plate has never been  
used must be refunded the registration fee paid if:

34           **1. Time limit.** The ~~plates-are~~ plate is returned within 120  
36 days of issue; and

38           **2. Registration plate unused.** The Secretary of State is  
satisfied that the ~~plates-have~~ plate has never been used.

40           **§465. Loss of registration plate**

42           **1. Loss of registration plate.** If a registration plate is  
44 lost or the number becomes mutilated or illegible, the owner or  
person in control of the vehicle shall immediately place a  
46 temporary substitute number plate bearing the registration number  
on the vehicle.

2           **2. Conformity with registration plate required.** A  
temporary plate must conform to the registration plate and be  
displayed as nearly as possible as a regular registration plate.

4  
6           **3. Report.** Within 24 hours after loss or mutilation of a  
registration ~~plates~~ plate, a person shall notify the Secretary of  
State and apply for a new registration ~~plates~~ plate.

8  
10           **4. Reissue.** If satisfied as to the truth of the facts  
stated in the application, the Secretary of State shall supply a  
new registration ~~plates~~ plate on payment of a fee of \$5 for each  
12 the plate.

14           ~~5. -- One of a set. -- Whenever one of a set of registration~~  
~~plates is lost and a new set is issued, the remaining plate must~~  
16 ~~be returned to the Secretary of State.~~

18           **6. Registration plate lost in transit.** If a registration  
~~plates are~~ plate is lost in transit and the applicant certifies  
20 in an affidavit that the ~~plates have~~ plate has not been received,  
and that if ~~they are~~ the plate is received the applicant will  
22 return ~~them~~ the plate, the Secretary of State after investigation  
may furnish the applicant with a ~~2nd set of plates~~ new plate  
24 without additional charge.

26           **7. Applicability.** This section does not apply to dealers  
and transporters.

28  
30           **Sec. 17. 29-A MRSA §502, sub-§1,** as enacted by PL 1993, c.  
683, Pt. A, §2 and affected by Pt. B, §5, is amended to read:

32           **1. Transferring registration.** A person who transfers the  
ownership or discontinues the use of a registered motor vehicle,  
34 trailer or semitrailer and applies for registration of another  
motor vehicle, trailer or semitrailer in the same registration  
36 year may use the same number ~~plates~~ plate on payment of a  
transfer fee of \$8, as long as the registration fee is the same  
38 as that of the former vehicle. If the fee for the vehicle to be  
registered is greater than the fee for the vehicle first  
40 registered, that person must also pay the difference. If  
application is made for a truck camper or a trailer with a gross  
42 weight of 2,000 pounds or less, the transfer fee is \$5.

44           **Sec. 18. 29-A MRSA §504, sub-§2,** as enacted by PL 1993, c.  
683, Pt. A, §2 and affected by Pt. B, §5, is amended to read:

46  
48           **2. Credit for certain commercial vehicles.** If a commercial  
vehicle registered for a gross weight of 23,001 pounds or more is  
operated only in the truck tractor-semitrailer configuration, a  
50 credit of \$40 is allowed for the original annual registration

2 fee. The owner of the vehicle must be issued a truck tractor  
3 registration plate, which must be displayed on ~~its front~~ the rear  
4 of the vehicle.

6 **Sec. 19. 29-A MRSA §517, sub-§5**, as enacted by PL 1993, c.  
683, Pt. A, §2 and affected by Pt. B, §5, is amended to read:

8 **5. Municipal police vehicles.** A vehicle owned by a  
9 municipality and used by a full-time law enforcement department  
10 may be issued a special police registration plates plate at the  
11 request of the chief law enforcement official of that  
12 municipality.

14 **Sec. 20. 29-A MRSA §519, sub-§4**, as enacted by PL 1993, c.  
683, Pt. A, §2 and affected by Pt. B, §5, is amended to read:

16 **4. Fee for registration plate.** An additional one-time fee  
17 of \$5 is charged for a ~~set--of~~ firefighter registration ~~plates~~  
18 plate.

20 **Sec. 21. 29-A MRSA §521, sub-§§2 and 8**, as enacted by PL 1993,  
21 c. 683, Pt. A, §2 and affected by Pt. B, §5, are amended to read:

24 **2. Special registration plate.** A handicapped person, or  
25 the spouse, parent or legal guardian of a handicapped person, who  
26 has registered a motor vehicle as the motor vehicle of principal  
27 use by the handicapped person may be issued a ~~set--of~~ special  
28 registration ~~plates~~ plate. The registration ~~plates~~ plate must  
29 bear the International Handicap Symbol.

30 **8. Violation.** A person other than a handicapped person or  
31 the spouse of a handicapped person using a ~~set--of~~ special  
32 designating ~~plates~~ plate or a placard commits a traffic  
33 infraction and is subject to a \$100 penalty. The special  
34 designating ~~plates~~ plate or placard may be suspended for improper  
35 use.

38 **Sec. 22. 29-A MRSA §§523 and 524**, as enacted by PL 1993, c.  
683, Pt. A, §2 and affected by Pt. B, §5, are amended to read:

40 **§523. Certain veterans**

42 **1. Amputee or blind veterans.** On application to the  
43 Secretary of State for registration of any motor vehicle of any  
44 amputee or blind veteran who has received an automobile from the  
45 United States Government under authority of 38 United States  
46 Code, ~~Sections 3901, et seq.~~ Section 3902 or any amputee or blind  
47 veteran receiving compensation from the Veterans Administration  
48 or any branch of the United States Armed Forces for

2 service-connected disability who has a specially designed motor  
vehicle, that veteran is entitled to have that automobile duly  
4 registered and a registration certificate delivered to the  
veteran without the requirement of the payment of any fee.

6 Any veteran who has lost both legs or the use of both legs and  
who has registered a motor vehicle without the payment of a fee  
8 as provided in this section upon certification by the Veterans  
Administration or appropriate branch of the United States Armed  
10 Forces must be issued a special designating plates plate. These  
The designating plates plate must be issued by the Secretary of  
12 State and must bear the words "Disabled Veteran."

14 **2. Disabled veterans; special free license plate.** The  
Secretary of State, on application and upon evidence of payment  
16 of the excise tax required by Title 36, section 1482, shall issue  
a registration certificate and ~~set--of~~ a special designating  
18 plates plate to be used in lieu of a regular registration plates  
plate to any 100% disabled veteran when that application is  
20 accompanied by certification from the United States Veterans  
Administration or any branch of the United States Armed Forces as  
22 to the veteran's disability and receipt of 100% service-connected  
benefits and that the veteran is permanently confined to a  
24 wheelchair or restricted to the use of crutches or braces or  
otherwise handicapped in such a way that mobility is seriously  
26 restricted. A handicap placard is issued in addition to the  
disabled veteran registration plate at no fee.

28 These The special designating plates plate must bear the words  
30 "Disabled Veteran," which ~~indiate~~ indicates that the vehicle is  
owned by a disabled veteran.

32 **3. Special veterans registration plate.** The Secretary of  
34 State, on application and upon evidence of payment of the excise  
tax required by Title 36, section 1482, the registration fee  
36 required by section 501 and a one-time additional fee of \$5,  
shall issue a registration certificate and a ~~set--of~~ special  
38 veterans registration plates plate to be used in lieu of a  
regular registration plates plate to any person who has served in  
40 the United States Armed Forces and who has been honorably  
discharged. If a veteran is the primary driver of 2 vehicles,  
42 the Secretary of State may issue in accordance with this section  
a ~~set--of~~ special veterans registration plates plate for each  
44 vehicle.

46 Each application must be accompanied by the applicant's Armed  
Forces Report of Transfer or Discharge, DD Form 214, or  
48 certification from the United States Veterans Administration or  
the appropriate branch of the United States Armed Forces



2 verifying the applicant's military service and honorable  
discharge.

4 All surplus revenue collected for issuance of the special  
6 registration plates is retained by the Secretary of State to  
maintain and support this program.

8 **§524. Other special veterans registration plates**

10 **1. United States Medal of Honor recipients; special license**  
12 **plate.** The Secretary of State, on application and upon evidence  
of payment of the excise tax required by Title 36, section 1482,  
14 shall issue a registration certificate and ~~set--of a~~ special  
designating plates plate, to be used in lieu of a regular  
16 registration plates plate, to any Maine resident who has been  
awarded the Medal of Honor by the Congress of the United States  
when the application is accompanied by a copy of the military  
18 orders awarding the Medal of Honor.

20 These The special designating plates plate must be of a design as  
determined by the Secretary of State.

22 **2. Former prisoners of war; special license plate.** The  
24 Secretary of State, on application and upon evidence of payment  
of the excise tax required by Title 36, section 1482, shall issue  
26 a registration certificate and ~~set--of a~~ special designating  
plates plate to be used in lieu of a regular registration plates  
28 plate to any person who served in the United States Armed Forces  
and who was a prisoner of war at any time during tenure of  
30 service, or the surviving spouse of a former prisoner of war who  
is deceased, when that application is accompanied by a copy of  
32 the appropriate military form certifying that the person is a  
former prisoner of war. This special license plate is issued  
34 specifically to former prisoners of war and their spouses and the  
privilege of using the special plate is transferable only on the  
36 death of the former prisoner of war to the former prisoner's  
spouse. Upon the death of the former prisoner of war, the  
38 surviving spouse may retain and display the special license  
plate. Upon remarriage, the surviving spouse may not use the  
40 special license plate on a motor vehicle, but may retain it as a  
keepsake. Upon the death of the surviving spouse, the family may  
42 retain the special license plate, but not use it on a motor  
vehicle.

44 These The special designating plates plate must be of a design as  
46 determined by the Secretary of State that is unique and not  
duplicated by any other design.

48 **3. Pearl Harbor survivors; special license plate.** The  
50 Secretary of State, on application and upon evidence of payment

2 of the excise tax required by Title 36, section 1482, shall issue  
a registration certificate and ~~set--of a~~ special designating  
4 ~~plates~~ plate to be used in lieu of a regular registration ~~plates~~  
and who was stationed at Pearl Harbor, Oahu, Hawaii during the  
6 attack by Japanese forces on December 7, 1941, when that  
application is accompanied by appropriate military certification  
8 verifying the applicant's service at Pearl Harbor during the  
attack. This special license plate is issued specifically to  
10 Pearl Harbor survivors and the privilege of using the special  
plate is not transferable.

12 These The special designating ~~plates~~ plate must be of a design as  
14 determined by the Secretary of State.

16 **Sec. 23. 29-A MRSA §668, sub-§3**, as enacted by PL 1993, c.  
683, Pt. A, §2 and affected by Pt. B, §5, is amended to read:

18

20 **3. Certificate delivered.** When the Secretary of State  
suspends or revokes a certificate of title, certificate of  
salvage or certificate of registration, the owner or person in  
22 possession of that document, immediately upon receiving notice of  
the suspension or revocation, shall deliver the document and the  
24 registration ~~plates~~ plate to the Secretary of State.

26 **Sec. 24. 29-A MRSA §702, sub-§5, ¶B**, as enacted by PL 1993, c.  
683, Pt. A, §2 and affected by Pt. B, §5, is amended to read:

28

30 B. ~~Registration--plates~~ The registration plate issued by  
this State ~~are~~ is removed from the vehicle, the registration  
issued by this State is surrendered and the vehicle is  
32 reregistered in another jurisdiction.

34 **Sec. 25. 29-A MRSA §1611, sub-§3**, as enacted by PL 1993, c.  
683, Pt. A, §2 and affected by Pt. B, §5, is amended to read:

36

38 **3. Maintenance of insurance.** The owner or owners of any  
vehicle subject to this section shall maintain at all times the  
required amount of insurance or bond during the term of the  
40 vehicle's registration. For vehicles registered in this State,  
the Secretary of State shall immediately suspend or revoke,  
42 pursuant to chapter 23, the registration certificate and  
registration ~~plates~~ plate of any vehicle for which the insurance  
or bond in the amounts required is not maintained. Any person  
44 whose registration certificate, registration ~~plates~~ plate and  
operating authority license have been suspended or revoked  
46 pursuant to this section shall immediately return the  
48 registration certificate, registration ~~plates~~ plate and the  
operating authority license to the Secretary of State. For  
50 vehicles not required to be registered in this State, the

Secretary of State shall suspend the person's operating authority license or right to operate in this State.

**Sec. 26. 29-A MRSA §1854, sub-§2,** as enacted by PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 and affected by Pt. B, §5, is amended to read:

**2. Contents of inquiry.** This inquiry must include the vehicle's make, model, year, body type, vehicle identification number and any registration and ~~plates~~ plate on the vehicle.

**Sec. 27. 29-A MRSA §2054, sub-§2, ¶F,** as enacted by PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 and affected by Pt. B, §5, is amended to read:

F. Only vehicles listed in this paragraph, rural mail vehicles as provided in paragraph C, subparagraph (5) and school buses may be equipped with, display or use a red auxiliary or emergency light.

(1) Emergency lights used on an ambulance, an emergency medical service vehicle, a fire department vehicle, a fire vehicle or a hazardous material response vehicle must emit a red light or a combination of red and white light.

(2) The municipal officers, when approved by the fire chief, may authorize an active member of a municipal or volunteer fire department to use a flashing red signal light not more than 5 inches in diameter on a vehicle. The light may be displayed but may be used only while the member is en route to or at the scene of a fire or other emergency. The light must be mounted as ~~near~~ as practicable ~~above the registration plate~~ on the front of the vehicle or on the dashboard. A light mounted on the dashboard must be shielded so that the emitted light does not interfere with the operator's vision.

(3) Members of an emergency medical service licensed by Maine Emergency Medical Services may display and use on a vehicle a flashing red signal light of the same proportion, in the same location and under the same conditions as those permitted municipal and volunteer firefighters, when authorized by the chief official of the emergency medical service.

**Sec. 28. 29-A MRSA §2362, sub-§2,** as enacted by PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 and affected by Pt. B, §5, is amended to read:

**2. Suspension for repeat offenders.** If the record maintained by the Secretary of State shows that a vehicle has

2 been operated in violation of section 2361 3 or more times during  
a 12-month period, then the Secretary of State shall suspend the  
4 registration ~~plates~~ plate and certificate of that vehicle, or,  
for a foreign-registered vehicle, the right to operate in this  
6 State.

8 **Sec. 29. 29-A MRSA §2416**, as enacted by PL 1993, c. 683, Pt.  
A, §2 and affected by Pt. B, §5, is amended to read:

10 **§2416. Registration suspension by court**

12 **1. Required registration suspension; return of certificate**  
**and plate.** The court shall suspend the right to register a motor  
14 vehicle and all any registration ~~eertifieates~~ certificate and  
~~plates~~ plate issued by the Secretary of State to any a person  
16 convicted for a violation of section 2411 who has a previous  
conviction for OUI within the 6-year period defined by section  
18 2402. The Secretary of State shall return the certificate of  
registration and ~~plates~~ plate to the defendant when the  
20 defendant's license and registration privileges have been  
restored.

22 **2. Exception for hardship.** Notwithstanding subsection 1,  
24 if a spouse or other family member regularly using a vehicle  
subject to suspension of registration establishes to the  
26 satisfaction of the court that hardship will result from that  
suspension, the court need not suspend the registration  
28 ~~eertifieates~~ certificate and ~~plates~~ plate or the right to  
register that vehicle.

30 **3. Reissuance of registration.** Notwithstanding a court  
32 order suspending a registration, the Secretary of State may  
restore a registration certificate and ~~plates~~ plate without fee  
34 during the remaining term of the registration to a spouse or  
other family member upon receipt of an affidavit authorizing the  
36 spouse or other family member to register the vehicle.

38 **Sec. 30. 29-A MRSA §2434, sub-§6**, as enacted by PL 1993, c.  
683, Pt. A, §2 and affected by Pt. B, §5, is amended to read:

40 **6. Order return of certificate and plate.** The court shall  
42 order the return of the suspended registration certificate and  
~~plates~~ plate to the Secretary of State.

44 **Sec. 31. 29-A MRSA §2460, sub-§1**, as enacted by PL 1993, c.  
46 683, Pt. A, §2 and affected by Pt. B, §5, is amended to read:

48 **1. Resident driver's license.** The Secretary of State may  
suspend a resident driver's license or certificate of  
50 registration and ~~plates~~ plate if the resident has failed to:

2 A. Respond to a traffic citation issued by another state or  
province;

4  
6 B. Appear in court in another state or province at the time  
specified by the court; or

8 C. Comply with a court order issued by another state or  
province.

10  
12 **Sec. 32. 29-A MRSA §2606**, as enacted by PL 1993, c. 683, Pt.  
A, §2 and affected by Pt. B, §5, is amended to read:

14 **§2606. Enforcement of suspension**

16 1. **Confiscation of license, certificate or plate.** If a law  
18 enforcement officer, in the course of stopping or detaining a  
motor vehicle, obtains a suspended license or certificate of  
20 registration, or a license issued by another state, foreign  
country or province when that person's license or certificate of  
22 registration is under suspension, the officer shall confiscate  
that license, certificate or ~~plates~~ plate and transmit the  
24 confiscated items together with a report of the circumstances to  
the Secretary of State.

26 2. **Investigation.** On request of the Secretary of State,  
notification of the suspension must be served, and the  
28 certificate, license or ~~plates~~ plate must be confiscated. If the  
license, certificate or ~~plates~~ plate can not be confiscated, an  
30 investigation must be undertaken by the sheriff of the county in  
which that person resides by a state or local law enforcement  
32 officer or by an employee of the Secretary of State.

34 **Sec. 33. 30-A MRSA §3009, sub-§1, ¶C**, as amended by PL 1991,  
c. 549, §16 and affected by §17, is further amended to read:

36  
38 C. The municipal officers may regulate the parking of motor  
vehicles on any public way or public parking area,  
40 including, but not limited to, providing for the  
installation of parking meters, providing the fact that any  
42 vehicle is illegally parked or is in a metered space when  
the time signal on the parking meter for that space  
44 indicates no parking permitted without the deposit of a coin,  
or coins is prima facie evidence that the vehicle has been  
46 parked illegally by the person in whose name the vehicle is  
parking.

48

2 (1) Illegal parking of a vehicle in violation of any  
ordinance authorized by this paragraph is a civil  
violation.

4  
6 (2) The municipal officers may establish a method by  
which persons charged with the violation of parking  
regulations may waive all court action by payment of  
8 specified fees within stated periods of time.

10 (3) The revenue collected from parking meters must be  
used:

- 12 (a) To purchase, maintain and police the meters;
- 14 (b) To construct and maintain public ways;
- 16 (c) To acquire, construct, maintain and operate  
18 public parking areas; and
- 20 (d) For no other purpose.

22 (4) Any motor vehicle or motorcycle registered by a  
handicapped person is exempt from any parking meter  
24 fare when that vehicle properly displays a special  
designating plates plate or a placard issued under  
26 Title 29 29-A, sections 252, 252-A 521 and 252-C 523,  
and may park a length of time that does not exceed  
28 twice the time limit otherwise applicable.

30 **Sec. 34. 36 MRSA §1955-A**, as repealed and replaced by PL  
1989, c. 878, Pt. A, §107, is amended to read:

32 **§1955-A. Failure to pay tax on vehicles**

34  
36 If, after notice of assessment and demand for payment, any  
amount required to be paid for any vehicle is not paid as  
demanded within the 10-day period prescribed in section 171, the  
38 State Tax Assessor, in addition to enforcing collection by any  
method authorized by this Part or Part 1 ~~or this Part~~, may  
40 immediately notify the Secretary of State who shall proceed in  
accordance with Title 29 29-A, section 55-B, 154 to mail the  
42 required 5-day 10-day notice and suspend any registration  
certificate and plates plate issued for the vehicle for which the  
44 tax remains unpaid at the expiration of the 5-day 10-day period.

46 **Sec. 35. 36 MRSA §1955-B**, as amended by PL 1989, c. 508, §14,  
is further amended to read:

48 **§1955-B. Payment of tax on vehicles resulting in protest**

50

2 Whenever the payment of the tax due for a vehicle results in  
a protest or is returned by the bank upon which it was drawn  
4 because of "Insufficient Funds," "Account Closed," "No Account"  
or a similar reason, the State Tax Assessor shall promptly mail a  
6 notice of dishonor, as defined in Title 11, section 3-508 3-1503,  
to the person liable for the payment of the tax and warn that  
8 person that if payment is not made as demanded within 10 days  
after the mailing of the notice, suspension of the registration  
10 certificate and ~~plates~~ plate issued for the vehicle may result in  
accordance with Title 29 29-A, section 55-B 154. If that person  
12 fails to pay the amount due within 10 days after the mailing of  
the notice, the State Tax Assessor, in addition to enforcing  
14 collection by any method authorized by this Part or Part 1 ~~of~~  
~~this Part~~, may immediately notify the Secretary of State who, in  
accordance with Title 29 29-A, section 55-B 154, shall proceed to  
16 mail the required 5-day 10-day notice and suspend any  
registration certificate and ~~plates~~ plate issued for the vehicle  
18 for which the tax remains unpaid at the expiration of the 5-day  
10-day period.

#### 22 STATEMENT OF FACT

24 This bill establishes a single license plate system in the  
State.