

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 122nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2005

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Legislative Document

No. 1430

H.P. 994

House of Representatives, March 22, 2005

### **An Act To Establish Special License Plates To Honor Maine Residents Serving Overseas**

(AFTER DEADLINE)

(EMERGENCY)

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Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 205.

Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.

*Millicent M. MacFarland*  
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND  
Clerk

Presented by Representative PILON of Saco.  
Cosponsored by Senator SULLIVAN of York and  
Representatives: DUPLESSIE of Westbrook, FISHER of Brewer, HOGAN of Old Orchard Beach, MAZUREK of Rockland, PARADIS of Frenchville, Speaker RICHARDSON of Brunswick.

2           **Emergency preamble.** Whereas, acts of the Legislature do not  
become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted  
as emergencies; and

4  
6           **Whereas,** Maine citizens serving in Iraq and Afghanistan need  
our support while they are away from their families and homes; and

8           **Whereas,** the families left behind are often not prepared to  
have their family disrupted by the war on terrorism; and

10  
12           **Whereas,** the need to support our troops and assist their  
families is urgent and important; and

14           **Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts  
create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of  
16           Maine and require the following legislation as immediately  
necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and  
18           safety; now, therefore,

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

22                   **Sec. 1. 29-A MRSA §§456-C and 456-D** are enacted to read:

24           **§456-C. Support Our Troops registration plates**

26           The Secretary of State shall issue registration plates,  
28           referred to in this section as "Support Our Troops plates," to  
30           support our troops serving overseas and to support their families  
32           at home beginning November 1, 2006 in accordance with this  
34           section and the guidelines of section 468 except that, for the  
36           purposes of this section, the requirement for the list of 2,000  
          names of supporters as required by section 468, subsection 2 is  
          waived. Support Our Troops plates are not required for  
          registration of a motor vehicle but are to allow citizens to  
          participate voluntarily to fund special programs to assist the  
          families in Maine of troops serving overseas.

38           **1. Support Our Troops plates.** The Secretary of State, upon  
40           receiving an application and evidence of payment of the excise  
42           tax required by Title 36, section 1482, the registration fee  
44           required by section 501 and the administrative fee and  
46           contribution provided for in subsection 2, shall issue a  
          registration certificate and a set of Support Our Troops plates  
          to be used in lieu of regular registration plates. These plates  
          must bear identification numbers and letters.

48           **2. Administrative fee and contribution to special**  
          programs. A person may contribute to the Support Our Troops  
          Special Programs Fund by applying for the Support Our Troops

2 plates and submitting, in addition to the regular motor vehicle  
3 fee, a sum of \$20 credited as follows:

4 A. Ten dollars to the Support Our Troops Special Programs  
5 Fund established in subsection 5; and

6 B. Ten dollars to the Specialty License Plate Fund as  
7 established in section 469 for administrative and production  
8 costs.

10 3. Design. A sponsor must submit a design for the Support  
11 Our Troops plates to the Secretary of State for approval or  
12 modification in accordance with section 468, subsection 5. The  
13 design must include the shape of the boundaries of the State of  
14 Maine, with an image of a curled ribbon superimposed over the  
15 shape of the State, with the words "Support Our Troops" at the  
16 bottom of the plate.

18 4. Renewal fee. In addition to the regular motor vehicle  
19 registration fee prescribed by law, the annual renewal  
20 contribution for Support Our Troops plates is \$15, which must be  
21 deposited with the Treasurer of State and credited as follows:

22 A. Ten dollars to the Support Our Troops Special Programs  
23 Fund established in subsection 5; and

24 B. Five dollars to the Specialty License Plate Fund as  
25 established in section 469 for administrative and production  
26 costs.

27 5. Special fund established. The Treasurer of State shall  
28 establish the Support Our Troops Special Programs Fund, into  
29 which fees paid for Support Our Troops plates are deposited  
30 pursuant to subsections 2 and 4 for the Maine Army National Guard  
31 to distribute to the Maine families of members of the Maine Army  
32 National Guard on active duty overseas in need of assistance of  
33 emergency funds or for similar purposes requiring special funds.

34 **§456-D. Serving America registration plates**

35 The Secretary of State shall issue registration plates,  
36 referred to in this section as "Serving America plates," to  
37 support our troops serving overseas beginning November 1, 2006 in  
38 accordance with this section and the guidelines of section 468  
39 except that, for the purposes of this section, the requirement  
40 for the list of 2,000 names of supporters as required by section  
41 468, subsection 2 is waived. Serving America plates are not  
42 required for registration of a motor vehicle but are for those  
43 service members of the State who have served in military  
44 expeditions to combat terrorism on or  
45 after September 11, 2001.

2 after September 11, 2001 to fund special programs to assist the  
3 families in Maine of military service members serving overseas.

4 1. **Serving America plates.** The Secretary of State, upon  
5 receiving an application and evidence of payment of the excise  
6 tax required by Title 36, section 1482, the registration fee  
7 required by section 501 and the administrative fee and  
8 contribution provided for in subsection 2, shall issue a  
9 registration certificate and a set of Serving America plates to  
10 be used in lieu of regular registration plates for a person who  
11 shows proof of military service that occurred on or after  
12 September 11, 2001. These plates must bear identification  
13 numbers and letters.

14 2. **Administrative fee and contribution to special**  
15 **programs.** A person who has been a member of the Armed Forces of  
16 the United States on or after September 11, 2001 may contribute  
17 to the Serving America Special Programs Fund by applying for the  
18 Serving America plates and submitting, in addition to the regular  
19 motor vehicle fee, a sum of \$20 credited as follows:

20 A. Ten dollars to the Serving America Special Programs Fund  
21 established in subsection 5; and

22 B. Ten dollars to the Specialty License Plate Fund as  
23 established in section 469 for administrative and production  
24 costs.

25 3. **Design.** A sponsor must submit a design for the Serving  
26 America plates to the Secretary of State for approval or  
27 modification in accordance with section 468, subsection 5. The  
28 design must include the shape of the boundaries of the State of  
29 Maine, with the image of the Global War on Terrorism  
30 Expeditionary Medal superimposed over the shape of the State,  
31 with the words "Serving America" at the top of the plate.

32 4. **Renewal fee.** In addition to the regular motor vehicle  
33 registration fee prescribed by law, the annual renewal  
34 contribution for Serving America plates is \$15, which must be  
35 deposited with the Treasurer of State and credited as follows:

36 A. Ten dollars to the Serving America Special Programs Fund  
37 established in subsection 5; and

38 B. Five dollars to the Specialty License Plate Fund as  
39 established in section 469 for administrative and production  
40 costs.

41 5. **Special fund established.** The Treasurer of State shall  
42 establish the Serving America Special Programs Fund, into which  
43 the contributions described in subsections 2, 3, and 4 shall be  
44 deposited.

2 fees paid for Serving America plates are deposited pursuant to  
3 subsections 2 and 4 for the Maine Army National Guard to  
4 distribute to any active duty military service member's  
5 dependents at home in the State in need of assistance of  
6 emergency funds or for similar purposes requiring special funds.

7 **Sec. 2. Protection of design of plates.** The Secretary of State  
8 shall copyright the designs of the 2 registration plates  
9 established pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 29-A,  
10 section 456-C and 456-D and make the designs available for a fee  
11 to other states interested in establishing these specialty  
12 license plates.

13 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the  
14 preamble, this Act takes effect when approved.  
15

## 16 SUMMARY

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19 **20** This bill authorizes the issuance of a special registration  
20 plate for any service member in Maine who has served on or after  
21 September 11, 2001. The proceeds of the sale of these plates are  
22 to go to a special fund to assist family members of those serving  
23 overseas. It authorizes the issuance of a special registration  
24 plate for those supporting our troops, and these funds also go to  
25 a special fund to assist family members of those serving in the  
26 war or for similar purposes requiring special funds. The bill  
27 also directs the Secretary of State to copyright the design of  
28 these plates and offer the designs to other states for a fee.