

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Date: 5/10/07

L.D. 964
(Filing No. H-223)

TRANSPORTATION

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
123RD LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 724, L.D. 964, Bill, "An Act To Establish a Special License Plate To Honor Maine Residents Serving Our Country"

Amend the bill by striking out all of sections 2 and 3 and inserting the following:

'Sec. 2. 29-A MRSA §456-D is enacted to read:

§456-D. We Support Our Troops registration plates

The Secretary of State shall issue registration plates, referred to in this section as "We Support Our Troops plates," to support Maine troops and their families in accordance with this section and section 468, except that the provisions of section 468, subsection 7 do not apply.

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

2. Administrative fee and contribution to special programs. A person may contribute funds for the purposes of providing financial assistance to members of the Maine National Guard and their families or residents of the State who are members of the Reserves of the Armed Forces of the United States and their families for emergencies and other special needs by applying for the We Support Our Troops plates and submitting, in addition to the regular motor vehicle registration fee required under section 501, a sum of \$20, which must be deposited with the Treasurer of State and credited as follows:

A. Ten dollars to the Maine National Guard Foundation Fund Special Revenue Funds account in the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, referred to in this section as "the fund," for use in accordance with subsection 7; and

B. Ten dollars to the Highway Fund for administrative and production costs.

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1 3. Renewal fee. In addition to the regular motor vehicle registration fee required
2 under section 501, the annual renewal contribution for We Support Our Troops plates is
3 \$15, which must be deposited with the Treasurer of State and credited as follows:

4 A. Ten dollars to the fund for use in accordance with subsection 7; and

5 B. Five dollars to the Highway Fund established in section 469 for administrative
6 and production costs.

7 4. Design. A sponsor must submit a design for the We Support Our Troops plates to
8 the Secretary of State for approval or modification in accordance with section 468,
9 subsection 5. The design must include the shape of the boundaries of the State of Maine,
10 with an image of a curled ribbon superimposed over the shape of the State, with the
11 words "We Support Our Troops" printed along the bottom of the plate. The Secretary of
12 State shall provide the final design to the joint standing committee of the Legislature
13 having jurisdiction over transportation matters prior to manufacture of the plates. The
14 Secretary of State shall issue upon request We Support Our Troops plates that are also
15 vanity plates. We Support Our Troops plates are issued in accordance with the provisions
16 of this section and section 453.

17 5. Duplicate plates prohibited. The Secretary of State shall issue a We Support
18 Our Troops plate in a 3-number and 3-letter combination sequence. Vanity plates may
19 not duplicate vanity plates issued in another class of plate.

20 6. Weight limit. A We Support Our Troops plate may be issued for a motor vehicle
21 that does not exceed 10,000 pounds. A motor vehicle that exceeds 6,000 pounds is
22 subject to the fees in section 504.

23 7. Administration of fees. The Secretary of State shall deposit to the Highway Fund
24 \$20 for each initial set of We Support Our Troops plates and \$15 for each renewal of We
25 Support Our Troops plates. The Treasurer of State shall transfer quarterly from the
26 Highway Fund to the fund \$10 for each set of We Support Our Troops plates issued and
27 for each renewal of We Support Our Troops plates.

28 The Treasurer of State shall reimburse the sponsor \$20,000 of the original payment from
29 the Highway Fund after the issuance of the first 2,000 registration plates under this
30 section.

31 Revenue in the fund must be used to provide financial assistance to members of the
32 Maine National Guard, residents of the State who are members of the Reserves of the
33 Armed Forces of the United States and the families of those members of the Maine
34 National Guard or Reserves of the Armed Forces of the United States for emergencies
35 and other special needs as determined by the We Support Our Troops Advisory Board
36 established in Title 5, section 12004-I, subsection 84-A.

37 8. We Support Our Troops Advisory Board. The We Support Our Troops
38 Advisory Board, as established by Title 5, section 12004-I, subsection 84-A and referred
39 to in this section as "the board," consists of 9 members. Membership of the advisory
40 board is as follows:

41 A. Eight members appointed by the Governor, in consultation with the Adjutant
42 General of the State of Maine, as follows:

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- 1 (1) Two persons, each representing the interests of the Maine National Guard;
- 2 (2) Two persons, each representing the interests of Maine residents in the
- 3 Reserves of the Armed Forces of the United States; and
- 4 (3) Four persons representing the interests of the public; and

5 B. The Adjutant General of the State of Maine.

6 The Adjutant General serves during the Adjutant General's term of office. The terms of
7 members appointed under paragraph A are for 3 years. Members may be reappointed for
8 subsequent terms. A vacancy must be filled in the same manner as an original
9 appointment for the remainder of the unexpired term.

10 The board shall determine the use of the revenue in the fund. Revenue in the fund must
11 be used to provide financial assistance in the form of loans or grants to members of the
12 Maine National Guard, residents of the State who are members of the Reserves of the
13 Armed Forces of the United States and the families of those members of the Maine
14 National Guard or Reserves of the Armed Forces of the United States for emergencies
15 and other special needs.

16 The board shall submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having
17 jurisdiction over transportation matters by June 30th of each year. The report must
18 provide a detailed account of funds for each fiscal year and include the number of loans
19 and grants awarded, the names of those who received loans and grant money, a
20 description of the process for awarding loans and grants and the total amount of loan and
21 grant money awarded.

22 **Sec. 3. Staggered terms for We Support Our Troops Advisory Board**
23 **members.** Notwithstanding the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 29-A, section 456-D,
24 subsection 8, the first members appointed under Title 29-A, section 456-D, subsection 8,
25 paragraph A, subparagraph (1) serve for 1 year, the first members appointed under Title
26 29-A, section 456-D, subsection 8, paragraph A, subparagraph (2) serve for 2 years and
27 the first members appointed under Title 29-A, section 456-D, subsection 8, paragraph A,
28 subparagraph (3) serve for 3 years.

29 **Sec. 4. Timing of issuance of plates.** The Secretary of State shall begin issuing
30 We Support Our Troops plates under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 29-A, section
31 456-D on November 1, 2007 if the sponsor of the plate who is registered under Title 29-
32 A, section 468, subsection 1 provided to the Secretary of State by May 1, 2007 the sum of
33 \$18,018 for deposit in the Specialty License Plate Fund established under Title 29-A,
34 section 469. This amount represents the incremental cost of issuing the specialty plate
35 beginning November 1, 2007. If the full specified sum was not provided by the specified
36 date, the Secretary of State shall begin issuing We Support Our Troops plates by April 1,
37 2008.

38 **Sec. 5. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and
39 allocations are made.

40 **CORRECTIONS, DEPARTMENT OF**
41 **State Prison 0144**

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1 Initiative: Allocates for the cost of the stock needed to produce "We Support Our Troops"
2 specialty registration plates.

3	PRISON INDUSTRIES FUND	2007-08	2008-09
4	All Other	\$2,000	\$2,060
5			
6	PRISON INDUSTRIES FUND TOTAL	<u>\$2,000</u>	<u>\$2,060</u>

7	CORRECTIONS, DEPARTMENT OF		
8	DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2007-08	2008-09

9			
10	PRISON INDUSTRIES FUND	\$2,000	\$2,060
11			
12	DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	<u>\$2,000</u>	<u>\$2,060</u>

13	SECRETARY OF STATE, DEPARTMENT OF		
14	Administration - Motor Vehicles 0077		

15 Initiative: Allocates for the cost of manufacturing "We Support Our Troops" specialty
16 registration plates.

17	OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2007-08	2008-09
18	All Other	\$58,018	\$0
19			
20	OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	<u>\$58,018</u>	<u>\$0</u>

21	SECRETARY OF STATE, DEPARTMENT OF		
22	DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2007-08	2008-09

23			
24	OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$58,018	\$0
25			
26	DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	<u>\$58,018</u>	<u>\$0</u>

27	SECTION TOTALS	2007-08	2008-09
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28			
29	OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$58,018	\$0
30	PRISON INDUSTRIES FUND	\$2,000	\$2,060

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SECTION TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$60,018	\$2,060
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SUMMARY

This amendment makes the following changes to the bill:

1. It removes a provision that waives the requirements of current law that a sponsor provide a list of 2,000 names of supporters who intend to buy the specialty plate and raise \$40,000 toward the cost of issuing those plates;
2. It waives the requirements of current law that the design of the specialty plate be submitted by September 1st to the Secretary of State and that the Secretary of State then submit the authorizing legislation with respect to the specialty plate;
3. It removes the legislative members from the We Support Our Troops Advisory Board, adds 2 more public members to the board, establishes terms for the members of the board and provides for the filling of vacancies;
4. It removes provisions allowing persons to purchase the plates without registering a vehicle;
5. It modifies how fees raised by the plate are administratively handled;
6. It removes a provision providing for copyrighting the plate design;
7. It adds provisions relating to the issuance of vanity plates, number sequencing and weight limits on vehicles eligible for the plates;
8. It provides for an issuance date of November 1, 2007 only if the sponsor of the plate pays for the incremental costs associated with that issuance date. If that funding is not provided, the issuance date is moved to April 1, 2008; and
9. It adds an appropriations and allocations section.

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED
(See attached)

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT



123rd MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 964

LR 837(02)

An Act To Establish a Special License Plate To Honor Maine Residents Serving Our Country

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment "A"

Committee: Transportation

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

	2007-08	2008-09	Projections 2009-10	Projections 2010-11
Net Cost (Savings)				
Highway Fund	(\$30,000)	(\$18,500)	(\$18,500)	(\$18,500)
Appropriations/Allocations				
Other Special Revenue Funds	\$58,018	\$0	\$0	\$0
Prison Industries Fund	\$2,000	\$2,060	\$2,122	\$2,185
Revenue				
Highway Fund	\$30,000	\$18,500	\$18,500	\$18,500
Other Special Revenue Funds	\$48,018	\$32,000	\$32,000	\$32,000

Fiscal Detail and Notes

The authorization of a "We Support Our Troops" registration plate will increase Highway Fund revenue by an estimated \$30,000 in fiscal year 2007-08 and \$18,500 in fiscal year 2008-09. The bill includes an additional one-time Other Special Revenue Funds allocation of \$58,018 in fiscal year 2007-08 for the Specialty Plate Fund within the Bureau of Motor Vehicles for the costs of manufacturing the plates. This additional allocation presumes that the sponsor of the registration plate will provide an additional \$18,018 in dedicated revenue (it has already provided \$40,000) to be deposited into the Specialty Plate Fund by May 1, 2007 to provide adequate resources for this increased expenditure.

The plate will also increase dedicated revenue to the newly established Maine National Guard Foundation Fund within the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management. The estimated amounts are \$30,000 and \$32,000 in fiscal years 2007-08 and 2008-09, respectively.

This legislation includes a Prison Industries Fund allocation to the Department of Corrections of \$2,000 in fiscal year 2007-08 and \$2,060 in fiscal year 2008-09 to allocate funds for the cost of the stock to produce the plates.