

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2021

Legislative Document

No. 130

S.P. 65

In Senate, January 21, 2021

**An Act To Create Appropriate Standards for the Secretary of State
To Follow When Approving the Assignments of Vanity Registration
Plates**

Received by the Secretary of the Senate on January 19, 2021. Referred to the Committee on Transportation pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator DIAMOND of Cumberland.
Cosponsored by Representative PARRY of Arundel.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 29-A MRSA §453, sub-§3-A**, as amended by PL 2019, c. 397, §4, is further
3 amended to read:

4 **3-A. Restrictions.** The Secretary of State may refuse to issue or may recall a plate
5 issued under this section that:

6 C. Falsely suggests an association with a public institutions institution or a government
7 or government agency;

8 D. Is duplicative; or

9 E. Consists of language that encourages violence or may result in an act of violence or
10 other unlawful activity because of the content of the language requested by the
11 registrant;

12 F. Is vulgar or obscene or constitutes racial or ethnic epithets;

13 G. Connotes breasts, genitalia, the pubic area or buttocks or relates to sexual or
14 eliminary functions;

15 H. Refers to an intoxicant or drug; to the use, nonuse, distribution or sale of an
16 intoxicant or drug; or to a user, nonuser or purveyor of an intoxicant or drug;

17 I. Refers to gender, gender identity, sexual orientation or disability status;

18 J. Suggests a privilege not given by law in the State; or

19 K. Forms a slang term, abbreviation, phonetic spelling or mirror image of a word or
20 term otherwise described in this subsection.

21 **SUMMARY**

22 This bill allows the Secretary of State to refuse to issue or to recall a vanity registration
23 plate that falsely suggests an association with a government or government agency; is
24 vulgar or obscene or constitutes racial or ethnic epithets; connotes breasts, genitalia, the
25 pubic area or buttocks or relates to sexual or eliminatory functions; refers to any intoxicant
26 or drug; refers to the use, nonuse, distribution or sale of an intoxicant or drug; refers to a
27 user, nonuser or purveyor of an intoxicant or drug; refers to gender, gender identity, sexual
28 orientation or disability status; suggests a privilege not given by law in the State; or forms
29 a slang term, abbreviation, phonetic spelling or mirror image of a word or term otherwise
30 prohibited.