

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE
AS PASSED BY THE

ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

January 5, 1977 to July 25, 1977

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PUBLIC LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE

AS PASSED AT THE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

of the
ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

1977

CHAPTER 142

AN ACT to Establish Registration for Governmental Vehicles.

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

29 MRSA § 256, as last amended by PL 1975, c. 609, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

§ 256. Governmental vehicles

1. State vehicles. All state-owned vehicles shall be registered by the Secretary of State, but shall be exempt from this Title as to the payment of registration fees, but shall not be exempt from the inspection requirements of section 2122. Plates for the vehicles shall be of a design determined by the Secretary of State and shall expire at the end of each 6-year semipermanent plate program. The vehicles may, in addition, display a marker or insignia, approved by the Secretary of State, plainly designating them as state-owned.

A. 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 not be required to display a special registration plate if the Commissioner of Public Safety so authorizes for he shall be the approving authority for all unmarked vehicles except those used by the Attorney General or members of his staff. Records of all unmarked vehicles shall be designated and held confidential.

2. Municipal vehicles. All county, municipal, school and water district vehicles shall be registered with the Secretary of State who shall furnish semipermanent plates for each vehicle which shall expire at the end of each 6-year semipermanent plate program. The vehicles shall be exempt from this Title as to payment of registration fees, but shall not be exempt from the inspection requirements of section 2122. The plate or plates shall be of a design determined by the Secretary of State.

A municipal fire department or an organized volunteer fire department may be exempt from this Title as to registration and payment of registration fees, but shall not be exempt from the inspection requirements of section 2122.

All vehicles owned or used by any municipal corporation therein and all vehicles loaned by automobile dealers to municipalities for use in driver education in secondary schools and all motor vehicles loaned by automobile dealers to private secondary schools for use in driver education in the schools and all motor vehicles used in volunteer ambulance and rescue squad services in such municipalities shall be registered, but shall be exempt from this Title as to the registration fees, except that when the vehicles are leased or rented for commercial purposes they shall be subject to payment of fees as provided in this Title. All such vehicles shall display registration plates as required by this Title or approved by the Secretary of State.

3. Federal government vehicles. Vehicles legally owned by the Federal Government which are used by persons in this State under lease with right of purchase agreement or otherwise shall be registered.

The Secretary of State is authorized to issue registration certificates and registration plates without fee to federal and other governmental agencies, not otherwise required to be registered under this Title.

4. University of Maine vehicles. The Secretary of State is authorized to register vehicles owned by the University of Maine without the payment of registration fees prescribed by this Title. Such vehicles shall display registration plates of a design determined by the Secretary of State.

Effective October 24, 1977

CHAPTER 143

AN ACT Requiring the Marking of Ice Fishing Shacks on Frozen Tidal Waters.

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

12 MRSA § 4102 is enacted to read:

§ 4102. Marking ice fishing shacks

It is unlawful to place any shack or temporary structure used for ice fishing on the frozen tidal waters, or to use the shack or structure, unless the owner's name and address are painted or otherwise clearly marked on the outside with 2-inch letters. Whoever violates this section shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$300 and costs.

Effective October 24, 1977

CHAPTER 144

AN ACT Concerning Board of Directors of Transit Districts.

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

Whereas, a number of transit districts are required to conduct business with $\frac{2}{3}$ of the directors present; and

Whereas, the $\frac{2}{3}$ requirement retards the progress of the transit districts; and