

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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CHAPTER 3
SECRETARY OF STATE

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§ 51. Rules and regulations; evidence

The Secretary of State may make rules and regulations, not inconsistent with this Title or other laws of the State, found needful to administer this Title. The rules and regulations of the Secretary of State and any changes therein shall take effect when approved by the Governor and Council and published at least once in each daily newspaper in the State. The certificate of the Secretary of State shall be received as prima facie evidence in any court of law to prove that such rules and regulations have been enacted as provided in this Title.

R.S.1954, c. 22, § 8.

§ 52. Deputy

The Secretary of State may appoint and deputize agents, examiners and inspectors, stationed at convenient places in the State, to receive applications for registration and licenses for the operation of motor vehicles and to conduct examinations when ordered by the Secretary of State.

R.S.1954, c. 22, § 3.

§ 53. Hearings; fees of witnesses; summary process

In the administration of the laws relative to motor vehicles and to the operators and the operation thereof, the Secretary of State or his deputy may conduct hearings, subpoena witnesses, administer oaths, take testimony and order the production of

books and papers, and for the purposes mentioned in this Title may issue all processes necessary for the performance of his duties. The fees for travel and attendance of witnesses shall be the same as for witnesses before the Superior Court and shall be paid by the State out of motor vehicle registration fees upon certificates of the Secretary of State filed with the State Controller. The Superior Court, on the petition of the Secretary of State, may issue summary process to enforce the lawful orders of the Secretary of State in any matter.

R.S.1954, c. 22, § 4; 1961, c. 417, § 34.

§ 54. Notice of hearing

Notice of any hearing held by the Secretary of State or by his authority under this Title shall state the place, day and hour thereof, and warn the licensee or registrant that he may then and there appear, in person or through counsel, to show cause why his license should not be suspended or revoked, or why the registration of the vehicle should not be annulled. Service of such notice shall be sufficient if sent by registered or certified mail to the address given by the licensee or registrant, 5 days at least before the day set for the hearing.

R.S.1954, c. 22, § 9; 1959, c. 207, § 2.

§ 55. Collection of fees; reports

The Secretary of State shall collect all fees required for licensing and registering all motor vehicles and operators thereof and shall forthwith transmit the same to the Treasurer of State. He shall, from time to time as required by the Governor and Council, make report of his doings and of the fees received from motor vehicle registrations, licenses issued and from other sources, with such recommendations as he may consider appropriate.

R.S.1954, c. 22, § 2.

§ 56. Abstract of laws published

The Secretary of State shall publish an abstract of statutes pertaining to motor vehicles and the law of the road and rules and regulations made by the Secretary of State and by the State Highway Commission pertaining to the administration of the duties of the Secretary of State and the Highway Commission under this Title, together with such other information as he deems helpful to public safety and the better regulation of traffic.

R.S.1954, c. 22, § 10.

§ 57. Records open to public; complaint confidential

All records of the Secretary of State pertaining to the applications and registration of motor vehicles and to operators' licenses shall be open to public inspection during office hours. Complaints in writing may be regarded as confidential.

R.S.1954, c. 22, § 5.

§ 58. Certificate as evidence

The certificate of the Secretary of State or his deputy, under seal of the State, shall be received in any court in this State as prima facie evidence of the issuance, suspension or revocation of any operator's license or any certificate of registration of any motor vehicle.

1961, c. 128, § 1.

§ 59. Facsimile signature of Secretary of State

A facsimile of the signature of the Secretary of State imprinted by or at his direction upon any precept or notice to suspend or revoke any certificate of registration or any license issued to any person to operate a motor vehicle shall have the same validity as his written signature.

1955, c. 10, § 3.

§ 60. Two-year old records may be destroyed

The Secretary of State is authorized to remove and destroy all records and papers in his office pertaining to the registration of motor vehicles and the issuance of operators' licenses which are more than 2 years old and are not in use, and which in his judgment are no longer of value.

R.S.1954, c. 22, § 11.

§ 61. Application file; refusal to register a license

The Secretary of State shall maintain a file of said applications arranged alphabetically according to the name of the applicant and numerically according to registration number. In case said applicant has not given satisfactory answers, the Secretary of State shall refuse to register such vehicle, or to issue a license for its operation.

R.S.1954, c. 22, § 13.