

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(New Draft of H. P. 1465, L. D. 1890)

ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 2023

H. P. 1597

House of Representatives, June 11, 1973

Reported by Mr. Stillings from Committee on Transportation and printed under Joint Rules No. 18.

E. LOUISE LINCOLN, Clerk

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-THREE

AN ACT Changing the Dates for Registration of Automobiles.

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

Sec. 1. R. S., T. 29, § 106, repealed and replaced. Section 106 of Title 29 of the Revised Statutes, as amended by section 10 of chapter 360 of the public laws of 1971, is repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:

§ 106. Expiration date

The registration year for all vehicles except automobiles shall be from March 1st to the last day of February of the next calendar year. On and after February 1st it shall be lawful to use and display on such vehicles the number plates or suitable devices in lieu thereof issued for the registration year.

Registration for the year 1975 of automobiles having plate numbers with a last letter or digit as shown shall be registered before March 1, 1975 to expire according to the following schedule:

Last Letter	Last Digit	Expiration Date
	0	October 31, 1975
A, J	1	November 30, 1975
B, K, S	2	December 31, 1975
C, L, T	3	January 31, 1976
D, M, U	4	February 28, 1976
E, N, V, F, O, W	5 or 6	March 31, 1976
G, P, X	7	April 30, 1976
H, Q, Y	8	May 31, 1976
I, R, Z	9	June 30, 1976

Any person, firm or corporation that has a fleet of 5 or more automobiles may petition the Secretary of State for an expiration date of all automobiles in their fleet. The Secretary of State, upon assigning a month of expiration, will collect a fee as prescribed in section 242, subsection 1, paragraph A-1.

Thereafter, automobile registrations shall expire annually on the last day of the same month.

New registrations shall expire at the end of the month one year from the month of issuance.

Number plates or a suitable device in lieu thereof furnished for the next registration period for automobiles may be displayed on the first day of the month in which the current registration expires.

Sec. 2. R. S., T. 29, § 152, amended. The first sentence of section 152 of Title 29 of the Revised Statutes, as amended by section 13 of chapter 360 of the public laws of 1971, is repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:

Whoever transfers the ownership or discontinues the use of a registered motor vehicle, trailer or automobile and applies to the Secretary of State for registration of another motor vehicle, trailer or automobile in the same registration year shall be entitled to a certificate of registration permitting the use of number plates of the proper class of registration thereon upon payment of a transfer fee of \$2, provided the fee is the same as that of the former vehicle.

Sec. 3. R. S., T. 29, § 152, amended. The last paragraph of section 152 of Title 29 of the Revised Statutes is amended to read as follows:

No portion of any fee once paid in any calendar year shall be repaid to any person, but from ~~January~~ **March 1st** to ~~September~~ **November 1st** in the same calendar year any amount paid for registration of a vehicle shall remain as full credit toward the registration of another vehicle in place of the one represented by the surrendered registration, and from ~~September~~ **November 1st** to ~~December 31st in the same calendar year~~ **the last day of February** such credit shall not exceed $\frac{1}{2}$ of the amount of the original fee, **except that the foregoing shall not apply to the registration of automobiles.**

No portion of any fee paid for an automobile once paid in any registration year shall be repaid any person but shall remain as full credit towards the registration of another vehicle, in place of the one represented by the surrendered registration. For the last 4 months in the same registration year such credit shall not exceed $\frac{1}{2}$ the amount of the original fee.

Sec. 4. R. S., T. 29, § 153, amended. Section 153 of Title 29 of the Revised Statutes, as amended by section 14 of chapter 360 of the public laws of 1971, is further amended to read as follows:

§ 153. Proration after November 1st

On any application for registration applied for by an owner of a vehicle, **except an automobile**, not including a log hauler or traction engine, during the period between the first day of ~~September~~ **November** and the ~~31st day of December~~ **last day of February**, $\frac{1}{2}$ the registration fee shall be charged; on

an application for a registration for an automobile made during the last 4 months of a registration year, 1/2 the registration fee shall be charged.

Sec. 5. R. S., T. 29, § 242, sub-§ 1, ¶ A-1, additional. Subsection 1 of section 242 of Title 29 of the Revised Statutes, as amended by chapter 304 of the public laws of 1965, is further amended by adding a new paragraph A-1 to read as follows:

A-1. The following automobiles shall reregister and pay the fees shown for the registration year 1975 only:

Last Letter	Last Digit	Paid for 1975 Registration
	0	\$12.50
A, J	1	13.75
B, K, S	2	15.00
C, L, T	3	16.25
D, M, U	4	17.50
E, N, V, F, O, W	5 or 6	18.75
G, P, X	7	20.00
H, Q, Y	8	21.25
I, R, Z	9	22.50

Sec. 6. R. S., T. 36, § 1481, sub-§ 6, additional. Section 1481 of Title 36 of the Revised Statutes, as amended, is further amended by adding a new subsection 6 to read as follows:

6. Automobile. "Automobile" means a motor vehicle, including a motorized home but not including a stock race car, designed for the conveyance of passengers with a seating capacity of not more than 14 persons.

Sec. 7. R. S., T. 36, § 1482, sub-§ 1, ¶ C, amended. The last sentence of paragraph C of subsection 1 of section 1482 of Title 36 of the Revised Statutes is amended to read as follows:

The maximum tax on and after the 7th year of model for a passenger vehicle, including a so-called station wagon an automobile, but not a bus or motorized home, shall be \$15.

Sec. 8. R. S., T. 36, § 1482, sub-§ 1, ¶ C, sub-¶¶ (1)-(3), additional. Paragraph C of subsection 1 of section 1482 of Title 36 of the Revised Statutes, as amended by chapter 493 of the public laws of 1969, is further amended by adding 3 new subparagraphs (1), (2) and (3) to read as follows:

(1) Staggered excise tax payments. The excise tax payment for the registration year 1975 of automobiles having plate numbers with a last letter or digit as shown shall pay an excise tax prior to registration for the number of months shown and to expire according to the following schedule:

Last Letter	Last Digit	Mos. of Excise Tax Payment	Expiration of Excise Tax Pmt.
	0	10	October 31, 1975
A, J	1	11	November 30, 1975

B, K, S	2	12	December 31, 1975
C, L, T	3	13	January 31, 1976
D, M, U	4	14	February 28, 1976
E, N, V, F, O, W	5 or 6	15	March 31, 1976
G, P, X	7	16	April 30, 1976
H, Q, Y	8	17	May 31, 1976
I, R, Z	9	18	June 30, 1976

(2) Thereafter, the excise tax payment shall be made annually prior to the registration of the motor vehicle. On new registrations, the excise tax payment shall be made prior to registration and shall be for a one-year period from the date of registration.

(3) Prorating of excise tax. Where the excise tax is for 12 months or less, it shall be prorated and computed by dividing the number of months the excise tax is to be paid by 12 and multiplying the result by the mill rate as specified for the appropriate model year as specified in paragraph C times the maker's list price.

Where the excise tax is for more than 12 months, it shall be computed by multiplying the mill rate for the appropriate model year times the maker's list price and adding to that sum an amount equal to the product of the number of months of the excise payment in excess of 12 divided by 12 times the mill rate for the next model year as specified in paragraph C multiplied by the maker's list price.

Sec. 9. R. S., T. 36, § 1482, sub-§§ 2-3, amended. Subsections 2 and 3 of section 1482 of Title 36 of the Revised Statutes are amended to read as follows:

2. Tax $\frac{1}{2}$ during certain periods. The excise tax levied in this section shall be $\frac{1}{2}$ of the sum named in subsection 1 from ~~September~~ November 1st to ~~December 31st~~ the last day of February, except the excise tax levied in this section on automobiles shall be, during the last 4 months of a registration year, $\frac{1}{2}$ of the sum named in subsection 1, paragraph C.

3. Tax paid for previous calendar or registration year. Whenever an excise tax has been paid for the previous calendar year or registration year by the same person on the same vehicle, the excise tax for the new calendar year or registration year shall be assessed as if the vehicle was in its next year of model.

Sec. 10. R. S., T. 36, § 1482, sub-§ 5, amended. The first paragraph of subsection 5 of section 1482 of Title 36 of the Revised Statutes, as amended by chapter 17 of the public laws of 1969, is further amended to read as follows:

Any owner who has paid the excise or property tax for a vehicle the ownership of which is transferred, or which is subsequently totally lost by fire, theft or accident or which is subsequently totally junked or abandoned, in the same calendar year or registration year, shall be entitled to a credit to the maximum amount of the tax previously paid in such year or period for any one vehicle

toward the tax for such other vehicles, regardless of the number of transfers, which may be required of him in the same calendar year or registration year.

Sec. 11. R. S., T. 36, § 1482, sub-§ 5, ¶¶ B-C, amended. Paragraphs B and C of subsection 5 of section 1482 of Title 36 of the Revised Statutes are amended to read as follows:

B. For each transfer made in the same calendar year or registration year the owner shall pay \$1 to the place in which the excise tax is payable.

C. From ~~September~~ **November 1st to December 31st** the last day of February such credit shall not exceed $\frac{1}{2}$ the amount of the maximum tax, except that for automobiles, during the last 4 months of the registration year, such credit shall not exceed $\frac{1}{2}$ the maximum tax.

Sec. 12. R. S., T. 36, § 1482, sub-§ 6, ¶¶ A-B, amended. Paragraphs A and B of subsection 6 of section 1482 of Title 36 of the Revised Statutes are amended to read as follows:

A. Where the person seeking to pay the excise tax owned the vehicle other than an automobile on or before April 1st, the excise tax must be paid before property taxes for the year in question are committed to the collector, otherwise the owner is subject to a personal property tax.

B. Where the person seeking to pay the excise tax acquired the vehicle other than an automobile after April 1st, or, being a nonresident, brought the vehicle other than an automobile into this State after April 1st, the excise tax may be paid at any time.

Sec. 13. R. S., T. 36, § 1482, sub-§ 6, ¶ E, additional. Subsection 6 of section 1482 of Title 36 of the Revised Statutes, as amended, is further amended by adding a new paragraph E to read as follows:

E. The Secretary of State may provide the registrant of an automobile with a renewable form for processing by the excise tax collector in lieu of the excise tax collector providing the forms.

Sec. 14. R. S., T. 36, § 1491, additional. Title 36 of the Revised Statutes is amended by adding a new section 1491 to read as follows:

§ 1491. False entry on renewal forms

Any person making a false entry on the renewal form provided by the Secretary of State in the collection of the excise tax, as authorized by section 1482, subsection 6, paragraph E, shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$100 nor more than \$500.

Sec. 15. Consultation. The Secretary of State shall consult with the Tax Collectors and Treasurers Association in implementing the changing of the dates for registration of automobiles.

Sec. 16. Appropriation. There is appropriated from the General Highway Fund to the Secretary of State, Motor Vehicle Division, the sum of \$149,086 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1974 and the sum of \$157,357 for the fiscal

year ending June 30, 1975 for the purpose of carrying out this Act. The breakdown shall be as follows :

	1973-74	1974-75
SECRETARY OF STATE, DEPARTMENT OF		
Motor Vehicle Division		
Personal Services	(16)\$ 50,436	(16)\$ 56,917
All Other	98,650	100,440
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$149,086	\$157,357

FISCAL NOTES

It is estimated that this bill will produce additional revenue during the biennium as follows :

	1973-74	1974-75
	None	\$1,000,000

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to alleviate the congestion that exists annually during the months of January and February in the motor vehicle registration program by providing a staggered system requiring the registration of passenger cars over a 9-month period each year in lieu of the present March 1st requirement. Convenience and improvement of service to the general public are the ultimate goals of this Act.

Note: The costs would result from the additional personnel plus the hardware/software necessary to mechanize the registration file. The number of personnel involved can be reduced from 16 to 9 after the program is established.