

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(EMERGENCY)  
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

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ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 2030

S. P. 641

In Senate, January 21, 1976

Referred to Committee on Transportation. Sent down for concurrence and ordered printed.

HARRY N. STARBRANCH, Secretary

Presented by Senator Clifford of Androscoggin.

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STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-SIX

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**AN ACT to Correct Certain Inequities in the Motor Vehicle Law.**

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

Whereas, all vehicle registrations except registrations for semitrailers are paid on an annual basis; and

Whereas, chapter 589 of the public laws enacted by the 107th Legislature in regular session imposed a 100% increase in semitrailer fees, which increase relates to the 4 remaining years on the current 6-year plates and which increase, without further legislative relief, would all be due and payable in 1976; and

Whereas, the downturn in the national and state economy has placed extremely serious financial strains on those who have registered semitrailers and many of those registered semitrailers remain idle because of the current economic climate; and

Whereas, the Secretary of State needs legislative authority to issue regulations allowing for the payment of the semitrailer fee on an annual or biennial basis; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

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

29 MRSA § 245-A, first ¶, as last amended by PL 1975, c. 589, § 12, is further amended by adding at the end the following new sentence:

With the concurrence of the Commissioner of Transportation, the Secretary of State is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations for the payment of the fees required under this section in annual or biennial installments. In promulgating such rules and regulations, the Secretary of State shall consider the financial impact of the registration fee on the registrants, the benefit or burden of such installment paying on the state revenues and the difficulty which the Motor Vehicle Division may encounter in administering this section.

#### FISCAL NOTE

While the revenue received by the State of Maine for the semitrailer registrations might be diminished in this biennium, any reduction in revenue would be made up in the succeeding biennium when no major new revenue from semitrailer registrations would otherwise be anticipated.

#### STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is reflected in the preamble.