

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND NINTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 247

H. P. 198

House of Representatives, January 31, 1979

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Strout of Corinth.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-NINE

AN ACT to Clarify Motor Vehicle Registration and Operator Licensing Requirements of Nonresidents.

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

29 MRSA § 2243, as repealed and replaced by PL 1975, c. 745, § 12, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

§ 2243. Reciprocity

1. Provisions not applicable to nonresidents. The provisions of this Title, relative to registration of vehicles and the issuance of operators' licenses, shall not apply to any nonresident owner or operator, provided that the owner or operator has complied with the provisions of the laws of the country, state or province of his residence relative to the registration of motor vehicles and the possession of operator licenses. A Maine registration and operator license shall be applied for within 30 days if residence in this State is declared or established.

A nonresident student enrolled in a university, college or school within this State shall be exempt from the registration and licensing requirements of this State as long as he possesses a valid registration and license issued by his state of legal residence.

The exemptions from registration and licensing set forth in this subsection apply only to the noncommercial use and operation of vehicles in this State.

2. Formal agreements. The Secretary of State, after determining that like privileges are granted by a state or province, shall enter into a written agreement with that state or province setting forth the conditions under which residents of that jurisdiction engaged in interstate commerce operations in and through this State shall be exempt from the registration and licensing laws of this State.

3. Limitation. No vehicle shall be operated commercially at a site within this State or used for the transportation of persons, merchandise or materials from one point in this State to another point in this State unless exempted from registration by a written reciprocity agreement as provided in this section, except that a nonresident-owned semitrailer drawn by a Maine registered power unit shall be permitted to transport merchandise in intrastate commerce.

Nothing in this Title shall be construed to permit operation of a nonresident vehicle on a way in this State with weights in excess of or equipped contrary to similar resident vehicles.

Any violation of the provisions of this section shall be a Class E crime.

STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill establishes specific regulations applicable to all noncommercial vehicles operated within this State by any nonresident. This change replaces the present policy which is vague, unenforceable and unsatisfactory because of the numerous diversified reciprocity agreements which have been established with other states.

This policy will provide the Motor Vehicle Division and law enforcement agencies with one specific universal policy so that they have a definitive guideline clarifying Maine motor vehicle registration and operator licensing requirements. Consequently, they can properly advise nonresidents and require Maine registrations when appropriate.