

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND NINTH LEGISLATURE

**Legislative Document**

**No. 510**

H. P. 406

House of Representatives, February 13, 1979

On Motion of Mr. Carroll of Limerick, referred to the Committee on Transportation. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Stetson of Wiscasset.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-NINE

**AN ACT to Restrict the Use of Dealer Plates.**

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

29 MRSA § 354, as last amended by PL 1977, c. 481, § 13, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

**§ 354. Vehicle and equipment dealer registration plates; use limitations**

1. **New and used vehicle dealers. Vehicles owned or controlled by new and used vehicle dealers may be operated using dealer registration plates under the following conditions only:**

**A. For the use of service managers and service personnel, when servicing those vehicles;**

**B. For the use of dealers, full-time salesmen, general managers or sales managers, when directly connected with the buying, demonstrating in the presence of a customer or exchanging of those vehicles;**

**C. For the use of those vehicles in funerals or public parades when no charge is made for that use; and**

**D. For use by customers for the purpose of demonstrating those vehicles for a time period not to exceed 7 days.**

2. **Equipment dealers.** Equipment dealer plates shall be for the use of dealers, service managers, full-time salesmen, general managers or sales managers, when directly connected with demonstrating in the presence of a customer or servicing the following new and used equipment not otherwise prohibited for use on the highways:

- A. Motorized graders;
- B. Power shovels;
- C. Front-end loaders;
- D. Backhoes;
- E. Rubber tired bulldozers;
- F. Large 4-wheel drive type trucks and snowplows;
- G. Motor cranes;
- H. Road sweepers;
- I. Sidewalk cleaners;
- J. Log skidders;
- K. Other related heavy equipment;
- L. Farm tractors;
- M. Self-propelled combines;
- N. Harvesters;
- O. Other related farm machinery;
- P. Any equipment taken in trade.

Equipment loaned by an equipment dealer to a customer for demonstration purposes may be operated on the registration plates of the dealer for not more than 7 consecutive days. The Secretary of State may, in his discretion, extend this period of 7 consecutive days to no more than 30 consecutive days whenever he finds the need for that extension is justified. This plate cannot be used for lease, rental, hire or for pleasure.

3. **Permit to demonstrate loaded truck.** A dealer, to demonstrate a loaded truck bearing dealer registration plates, shall first obtain a written permit from the Secretary of State and either the dealer or one of his full-time employees shall accompany the vehicle.

4. **Certificate for mobile homes.** No mobile home, as defined in Title 36, section 1481, shall be moved over the highways of this State unless the operator of the vehicle hauling that mobile home has in his possession a written certificate from the tax collector of the municipality in which the mobile home is situated on the day of the move, identifying the mobile home and stating that all property

**taxes applicable to the mobile home, including those for the current tax year, have been paid or that the mobile home is exempt from those taxes. The tax year shall be the period from April 1st to March 31st.**

**5. Loss of dealer plate. Upon the loss of a dealer plate, the dealer shall immediately notify the Secretary of State of that loss and only with the written authorization of the Secretary of State shall the dealer be allowed to attach a temporary number plate bearing his register number.**

#### STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to restrict to business purposes only the use of dealer plates by new and used car dealers and equipment dealers. Dealer plates are exempt from the excise tax and under present law may be used for purposes not directly related to the dealer's business. According to the Secretary of State's office, at least 13,000 dealers plates are in circulation. This represents a costly tax exemption to municipalities.