

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

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ONE HUNDRED AND NINTH LEGISLATURE

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 726**

H. P. 578

House of Representatives, February 22, 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. Strout of Corinth.

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STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-NINE

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**AN ACT Concerning 8-Year Semitrailer Registration.**

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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, a first display date of February 1st places severe hardships on volume purchases of long-term semitrailer registrations; and

Whereas, it is vitally necessary to establish an earlier first display date as soon as possible; 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**29 MRSA § 245-A**, as repealed and replaced by PL 1977, c. 481, § 8, is amended by adding 2 new paragraphs at the end to read:

**At the beginning of each 8-year semipermanent plate program, it shall be lawful to use and display the number plates issued for the ensuing 8-year semipermanent plate program on and after December 1st of the preceding calendar year.**

**The first display date of all 8-year semipermanent plates issued after the commencement of the 8-year semipermanent plate program shall be either on and after the date of purchase or on and after February 1st next following the date of issuance, depending upon the number of registration years paid for by the registrant.**

**Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this Act shall become effective when approved.

#### STATEMENT OF FACT

The last semipermanent plate issue occurred in 1974. At that time, the law allowed the first display of all number plates on and after December 25th for the registration year commencing the following March 1st. This gave the registrant in excess of 2 months during which time they could obtain and display their plates for the coming registration year. When the so-called stagger registration system was established in 1975, the law, as it relates to first display of plates, was modified so that currently the first display of number plates for the next registration year in the case of nonstagger vehicles is on and after February 1st.

This situation presents a unique problem to many companies who purchase large blocks of Maine long-term semitrailer plates since, due to the volume of trailers involved, the present law does not give those companies sufficient time to locate and match all of their units with the plates for the upcoming plate issue program. This is particularly so in the case of several firms who purchase in excess of 20,000 Maine long-term trailer registrations.

This proposed bill would allow purchasers of long-term trailer plates to first display the plates for the upcoming registration period on and after December 1st preceding the plate issue year. This would give them 3 months time in which to match their plates with their units understanding that the Maine plates now on these units will expire on the last day of February, 1980.