

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND NINTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 970

H. P. 767

House of Representatives, March 2, 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 Mrs. Hutchings of Lincolnville.

Cosponsors: Mr. Leonard of Woolwich and Mr. McKean of Limestone.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED.  
SEVENTY-NINE

AN ACT to Provide for Staggered Registration for Motor Trucks.

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

Sec. 1. 29 MRSA § 106, as last amended by PL 1977, c. 481, § 5, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

§ 106. Expiration date

The registration year for all vehicles except automobiles, motor trucks and truck tractors 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.

1. Reregistration of motor trucks and truck tractors. All motor trucks and truck tractors with a current and valid registration shall be reregistered after the effective date of this section according to the last digit of the registration number plate in accordance with the following schedule:

Last Letter	Last Digit	Expiration Date
A, M	0	October 31, 1979

B, N	1	November 30, 1979
C, P	2	December 31, 1979
D, Q	3	January 31, 1980
E, R	4	February 29, 1980
F, S	5	March 31, 1980
G, T	6	April 30, 1980
H, U	7	May 31, 1980
I, V	8	June 30, 1980
J, W	9	July 31, 1980
K, X		August 31, 1980
L, Y, Z		September 30, 1980

All current motor truck and truck tractor registrations due to expire on February 28, 1980 shall be charged the annual registration fee due and an additional fee to be prorated to reflect the cost of that portion of the year of 1981 for which the registration issued according to the schedule in this subsection is valid. The Secretary of State shall establish a reregistration payment and reregistration procedure for reregistering vehicles in 1980 for which the reregistration is issued in excess of 15 months. Thereafter, motor truck and truck tractor registrations shall expire annually on the last day of the month.

2. Credit for motor trucks and truck tractors reregistered prior to March 1, 1980. All current and valid motor truck and truck tractor registrations due to expire on February 29, 1980 and which are reregistered prior to February 29, 1980 in accordance with the schedule in subsection 1 shall be charged an annual registration fee minus a credit for the unexpired portion of the current registration. The credit shall be computed by dividing the total registration fee by the number of remaining months for which the current registration is valid.

3. Reregistration of motor truck and truck tractor fleets. Any person that has a fleet of 5 or more motor trucks or truck tractors may petition the Secretary of State for a common expiration date for all motor trucks or truck tractors in the fleet.

4. New motor truck and truck tractor registrations. New motor truck and truck tractor registrations shall expire at the end of the month one year from the month of issuance.

5. Automobile registrations and reregistrations. Automobile registrations and reregistrations shall be in accordance with this subsection.

A. Automobile registrations shall expire annually on the last day of the month, one year from the month of issuance.

**B. When application for reregistration of an automobile is made after the registration for the previous year has been expired for 2 months or more, the expiration date of the renewal shall be at the end of the month, one year from the month of issuance.**

**C. Any person who has a fleet of 5 or more automobiles may petition the Secretary of State for an expiration date of all automobiles in the fleet.**

**6. Number plates. Number plates or a suitable device in lieu thereof furnished for the next registration period for automobiles, motor trucks, and truck tractors may be displayed on the first day of the month in which the current registration expires.**

**Sec. 2. 29 MRSA § 152, last paragraph, 1st sentence, is amended to read:**

No portion of any fee paid for an automobile, **motor truck or truck tractor** 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.

**Sec. 3. 29 MRSA § 153, as repealed and replaced by PL 1973, c. 788, § 126, is amended to read:**

**§ 153. Proration after November 1st**

On any application for registration applied for by an owner or the owner's surviving spouse of a vehicle, except an automobile, **motor truck or truck tractor**, not including a log hauler or traction engine, during the period between the first day of November and the last day of February, 1/2 the registration fee shall be charged. ~~On~~ **On** an application for a registration for an automobile, **motor truck or truck tractor** made during the last 4 months of a registration year, 1/2 the registration fee shall be charged.

**Sec. 4. 29 MRSA § 242, sub-§ 1, ¶ A-1, as enacted by PL 1973, c. 588, § 5, is repealed.**

**Sec. 5. 36 MRSA § 1482, sub-§ 1, ¶ C, sub-¶ (1), as enacted by PL 1973, c. 588, § 8, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:**

**(1) The excise tax payment for the registration of motor trucks and truck tractors due according to the schedule defined in Title 29, section 106, subsection 1, shall be computed according to this subparagraph.**

**All current motor truck and truck tractor registrations due to expire on February 29, 1980, and which vehicles, according to Title 29, section 106, subsection 1 have a registration renewal date following February 29, 1980, shall pay the annual excise tax prior to March 1, 1980, and an additional fee to be prorated to reflect the cost of that portion of the year of 1980, for which the registration issued according to Title 29, section 106, subsection 1, is valid.**

**All current and valid motor truck and truck tractor registrations due to expire on February 29, 1980, in accordance with Title 29, section 106, subsection 1, shall be charged an annual excise tax minus a credit for the unexpired portion of the current registration. The excise tax credit shall be computed by dividing the annual excise tax by the number of remaining months for which the current registration is valid.**

**Following the payment of excise taxes due in 1979 or 1980, in accordance with Title 29, section 106, subsection 1, motor trucks and truck tractors shall be subject to an annual excise tax at the time of registration renewal.**

#### STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to allow for the staggered registration of motor trucks and truck tractors in the same manner of staggered registration for automobiles. There is no reason to require all motor trucks and truck tractors to be registered on March 1, 1980. This bill will reduce the burden of registration in February for the Division of Motor Vehicles.

This bill allows any owner of 5 or more trucks to continue to register all the trucks on the same day.