

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND TENTH LEGISLATURE

**Legislative Document**

**No. 1229**

H. P. 1019

House of Representatives, March 10, 1981

On Motion of Representative Kany of Waterville, referred to the Committee on Transportation. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative Nadeau of Lewiston.

Cosponsors: Representative P. Paradis of Augusta, Representative Nelson of Portland and Senator Ault of Kennebec.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-ONE

**AN ACT to Provide Photographic Nonalterable Drivers' Licenses and Other State Documents.**

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

Sec. 1. 5 MRSA § 89 is enacted to read:

**§ 89. Cooperative document production capability**

**1. Purpose.** State licenses and identification documents have an increasingly important role in our society. They not only serve to identify persons who have received permission to undertake a specific regulated activity, but also serve as identification in numerous public and private transactions.

It is becoming vitally important to insure that state licenses be issued in a form that clearly identifies them as official state documents, that they positively and easily identify the holder and that they are extremely difficult to counterfeit or alter. The use of photographs and special manufacturing techniques will meet these needs.

The need for positive identification and security is most important with motor vehicle operators' licenses and with liquor identification cards. Many other state documents may also benefit from these attributes, particularly those involving an

official nature, integrity and positive identification of the bearer. The State should encourage an efficient and effective system to allow state agencies to provide official photographic, nonalterable, secure documents to the greatest extent possible.

2. **Facilities.** The Secretary of State shall provide within the department facilities and equipment to process motor vehicle operators' licenses and other official state identification cards and licenses, as requested by other state agencies and departments.

3. **Form.** An official state license or identification card issued under this section shall be a one-piece document produced from a central location and shall:

- A. Clearly indicate its nature as an official state document;
- B. Contain a photograph of the bearer;
- C. Be manufactured in a manner to prohibit, as nearly as possible, the ability to reproduce, alter or counterfeit the document without ready detection; and
- D. Contain other information required or deemed appropriate for that license or identification card by the requesting department or agency.

4. **File.** A negative film file of these documents shall be maintained by the Secretary of State.

5. **Costs.** The production of documents for another department or agency shall be charged to that department or agency at cost.

6. **Fees.** A department or agency issuing documents produced under this section may, by adopting or amending rules, increase the fee for that document to cover the additional cost incurred. That fee increase may not exceed \$1 per document.

Sec. 2. 28 MRSA § 1060, as last amended by PL 1977, c. 564, § 104, is further amended by adding at the end a new paragraph to read:

A motor vehicle operator's license bearing the photograph of the operator and issued under Title 29, chapter 7, may be used in place of this adult identification card.

Sec. 3. 29 MRSA § 540, first ¶, as amended by PL 1973, c. 285, § 2, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

Each license shall state the name, age, date of birth, place of residence of the licensee and the permanent number assigned to him. It shall bear a photograph of the licensee for the purpose of identification and may contain such other information as the Secretary of State deems necessary. It shall be manufactured in a manner to prohibit, as nearly as possible, the ability to reproduce, alter or counterfeit the document without ready detection. Every licensee shall indorse his usual signature upon the margin of the license before using it and no license is valid until so endorsed.

**Sec. 4. 29 MRSA § 540, 2nd ¶**, as amended by PL 1973, c. 625, § 188, is further amended to read:

Licenses issued to persons under ~~18~~ 20 years of age shall be printed on material of a different color than those issued to persons ~~18~~ 20 years of age or older.

**Sec. 5. 29 MRSA § 542, first ¶, last sentence**, as amended by PL 1979, c. 738, § 3, is further amended to read:

The fee for such license shall be ~~\$16 through February 28, 1981 and \$10 thereafter~~ \$11.

**Sec. 6. 29 MRSA § 542, 2nd ¶, last sentence**, as amended by PL 1979, c. 738, § 4, is further amended to read:

The fee for such license shall be ~~\$8 through February 28, 1981 and \$5 thereafter~~ \$6.

**Sec. 7. 29 MRSA § 542, last ¶, last sentence**, as amended by PL 1979, c. 738, § 5, is further amended to read:

The fee for all 2-year licenses shall be ~~\$8 through February 28, 1981 and \$5 thereafter~~ \$6.

#### STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to provide for photographic, nonalterable state licenses. It requires that motor vehicle operators' licenses are to bear a photograph and be manufactured in a manner to prevent forgery or alteration. The bill also provides that these new operators' licenses may be used as an adult liquor identification card.

The bill provides that the facilities and equipment used for making the operators' licenses may also be used by other state departments and agencies for their identification cards or licenses. The other department or agency will pay for these services at cost and may increase the relevant license fee by up to \$1 to cover those costs.

This bill states the reasons for photographic, nonalterable licenses and the policy of encouraging their use throughout State Government.

Any additional costs incurred by the State because of the requirement of including a photograph on an operators' license will be met by the \$1 fee increase for issuing licenses and by the reduction in the number of Liquor Commission identification cards issued. Any additional costs for other photographic licenses will also be met by a fee increase which may not exceed \$1.