

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(EMERGENCY)  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

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ONE HUNDRED AND TENTH LEGISLATURE

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 1690**

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H. P. 1653

House of Representatives, June 9, 1981

Reported from the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation pursuant to H. P.

1619.

Reported by The Majority from the Committee on Taxation and Printed  
under Joint Rules No. 2.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

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STATE OF MAINE

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

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**AN ACT to Fund the Highway Allocation Act for Fiscal Years 1981-82 and 1982-83.**

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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, the 90-day period will not terminate until after the beginning of the next fiscal year; and

Whereas, decreasing motor fuel revenues limit the ability to maintain highway systems in our State; and

Whereas, certain fees have failed to keep pace with escalating costs of administering and enforcing motor vehicle and highway safety laws; and

Whereas, additional funding is necessary to meet the costs of administration and adequate maintenance of highway related services in fiscal years 1981-82 and 1982-83; 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:

**Sec. 1. 29 MRSA § 244, sub-§ 1, first ¶**, as amended by PL 1975, c. 589, § 9, is further amended to read:

The fee shall be ~~be~~ **\$7.50** for a gross weight not to exceed 2,000 pounds. The maximum fee for all farm trailers, whether semitrailers or 4-wheeled type, equipped with pneumatic tires, shall be ~~be~~ **\$7.50** for each trailer when the ~~said~~ trailers are used and to be used by farmers for the sole and exclusive purpose of transporting their own farm products, crops, fertilizers and farm tools and utensils and subject to the further conditions and limitations that:

**Sec. 2. 29 MRSA § 244, 2nd ¶**, as amended by PL 1969, c. 138, § 2, is further amended to read:

Trailers having a gross weight in excess of 2,000 pounds shall be classified and rated as trucks. All boat trailers registered for a gross weight in excess of 2,000 pounds but not more than 4,000 pounds shall pay a registration fee of ~~be~~ **\$7.50**.

**Sec. 3. 29 MRSA § 244, 3rd ¶**, as amended by PL 1975, c. 252, § 7 and PL 1975, c. 589, § 10, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

**Camp trailers having a gross weight exceeding 2,000 pounds shall be assessed a registration fee of \$15.**

**Sec. 4. 29 MRSA § 244, 4th ¶**, as last amended by PL 1975, c. 252, § 8, is further amended to read:

Mobile homes shall be registered and pay a fee of ~~be~~ **\$7.50** for such registration.

**Sec. 5. 29 MRSA § 244, 3rd ¶ from the end, first sentence**, is amended to read:

Special mobile equipment, which is permanently mounted on a traction unit or motor chassis, shall be registered and a fee of ~~be~~ **\$15** shall be paid for such registration in lieu of all other registration fees.

**Sec. 6. 29 MRSA § 245, last ¶**, as amended by PL 1975, c. 589, § 11, is further amended to read:

Semitrailer ..... ~~be~~ **\$15** each.

**Sec. 7. 29 MRSA § 246, first 2 paragraphs**, as repealed and replaced by PL 1979, c. 439, § 11, are amended to read:

With each application for registration of a motor truck, tractors and truck tractors shall be paid an annual registration fee graduated as follows when equipped with pneumatic tires:

From	0 pounds gross weight to	6,000 pounds gross weight	.....	\$ 20
From	6,001 pounds gross weight to	9,000 pounds gross weight	.....	<del>\$ 25</del> \$ 27
From	9,001 pounds gross weight to	11,000 pounds gross weight	.....	<del>\$ 40</del> \$ 47
From	11,001 pounds gross weight to	14,000 pounds gross weight	.....	<del>\$ 70</del> \$ 80
From	14,001 pounds gross weight to	16,000 pounds gross weight	.....	<del>\$ 92</del> \$107
From	16,001 pounds gross weight to	18,000 pounds gross weight	.....	<del>\$115</del> \$133

From 18,001 pounds gross weight to 20,000 pounds gross weight .....	<del>\$144</del>	<del>\$167</del>
From 20,001 pounds gross weight to 23,000 pounds gross weight .....	<del>\$173</del>	<del>\$200</del>
From 23,001 pounds gross weight to 26,000 pounds gross weight .....	<del>\$201</del>	<del>\$233</del>
From 26,001 pounds gross weight to 29,000 pounds gross weight .....	<del>\$246</del>	<del>\$285</del>
From 29,001 pounds gross weight to 32,000 pounds gross weight .....	<del>\$277</del>	<del>\$321</del>
From 32,001 pounds gross weight to 35,000 pounds gross weight .....	<del>\$308</del>	<del>\$357</del>
From 35,001 pounds gross weight to 38,000 pounds gross weight .....	<del>\$338</del>	<del>\$392</del>
From 38,001 pounds gross weight to 42,000 pounds gross weight .....	<del>\$370</del>	<del>\$428</del>
From 42,001 pounds gross weight to 46,000 pounds gross weight .....	<del>\$400</del>	<del>\$464</del>
From 46,001 pounds gross weight to 50,000 pounds gross weight .....	<del>\$431</del>	<del>\$500</del>
From 50,001 pounds gross weight to 55,000 pounds gross weight .....	<del>\$471</del>	<del>\$548</del>
From 55,001 pounds gross weight to 60,000 pounds gross weight .....	<del>\$523</del>	<del>\$607</del>
From 60,001 pounds gross weight to 65,000 pounds gross weight .....	<del>\$570</del>	<del>\$660</del>
From 65,001 pounds gross weight to 70,550 pounds gross weight .....	<del>\$627</del>	<del>\$727</del>
From 70,551 pounds gross weight to 73,280 pounds gross weight .....	<del>\$690</del>	<del>\$800</del>

A registration fee of ~~\$18~~ \$20 shall be paid for each thousand pounds or portion thereof of gross weight a vehicle is registered for in excess of 73,280 pounds.

Sec. 8. 29 MRSA § 249, 2nd ¶, as amended by PL 1975, c. 589, § 14, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

**Motorcycles.....\$15 each.**

Sec. 9. 29 MRSA § 532, 4th ¶, as amended by PL 1979, c. 738, § 2, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

**The fee for a motorcycle or motor driven cycle learner’s permit shall be \$10, which shall include the first road test. The fee for all subsequent examinations shall be \$5.**

Sec. 10. 29 MRSA § 542, first ¶, last sentence, as amended by PL 1979, c. 738, § 3, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

**The fee for such license shall be \$16.**

Sec. 11. 29 MRSA § 542, 2nd ¶, last sentence, as amended by PL 1979, c. 738, § 4, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

**The fee for such license shall be \$8.**

Sec. 12. 29 MRSA § 542, last ¶, last sentence, as amended by PL 1979, c. 738, § 5, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

**The fee for all 2-year licenses shall be \$8.**

Sec. 13. 29 MRSA § 582, sub-§§ 1, and 2, as amended by PL 1979, c. 783, § 6, are repealed and the following enacted in their place:

**1. Class 1 or 2 license. The examination fee for a Class 1 or 2 license shall be \$25, which shall include the first road test. All subsequent examination fees shall be \$15.**

2. **Class 3 license.** The examination fee for a Class 3 license shall be \$10, which shall include the first road test. All subsequent examination fees shall be \$5.

Sec. 14. 29 MRSA § 582, sub-§ 4 is enacted to read:

4. **Credit.** Any person who was required to pay a fee of \$16 for a 4-year motor vehicle operator's license or \$8 for a 2-year motor vehicle operator's license between July 1, 1980, and February 28, 1981, shall receive a credit of \$6 toward the fee for renewal of his 4-year license or \$3 for renewal of his 2-year license.

Sec. 15. 29 MRSA § 2013, sub-§ 1, ¶E, last 2 sentences, as amended by PL 1975, c. 589, § 22, are further amended to read:

A fee of ~~\$8~~ \$25 shall accompany the application for such examination. The fee for subsequent examinations shall be ~~\$5~~ \$15.

Sec. 16. 29 MRSA § 2352, sub-§ 1, as last amended by PL 1979, c. 738, § 7, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

1. **Fees.** The Secretary of State shall be paid the following fees:

A. \$7:

- (1) For a certificate of search of the records of the Motor Vehicle Division for each name or identification number searched against; and
- (2) For a certificate of title issued pursuant to section 895-B;

B. \$6:

- (1) For filing an application for a first certificate of title including security interest;
- (2) For filing notice of a security interest after the first certificate of title has been issued;
- (3) For a certificate of title after a transfer; and
- (4) For a certificate of salvage pursuant to section 2377;

C. \$5:

- (1) For a corrected certificate of title or certificate of salvage; and
- (2) For duplicate certificate of title or certificate of salvage pursuant to section 2377; and

D. \$2.50:

- (1) For each subsequent security interest noted upon a certificate of title;
- (2) For filing an assignment of a security interest; and
- (3) For an ordinary certificate of title issued upon surrender of a distinctive certificate.

**Sec. 17. Appropriation.** The following funds are appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.

	1981-82	1982-83
<b>PUBLIC SAFETY, DEPARTMENT OF</b>		
State Police	\$4,093,297	\$5,097,689

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

**FISCAL NOTE**

The fee adjustments provided by this bill will result in additional revenue to the Highway Fund of approximately \$14,800,000.

**STATEMENT OF FACT**

This bill provides funding for highway allocations by restoring driver's license fees which were enacted in the 109th Legislature and which terminated in February, 1981. It provides a credit on future license fees for persons who paid the higher price last year. The bill also increases registration fees by a percentage which equalizes them with prior increases in automobile registration fees. The examination fee for Class 1 and Class 2 licenses is increased to approximate the actual cost of administering the exam.

The registration fees for trucks have not been increased since 1957, with the exception of the increases enacted in the Second Regular Session of the 109th Legislature, which will terminate on October 1, 1981, if not reenacted. Other legislation which may be enacted this session also affects these registration fees by extending them without adjusting them. It is the intent of the Legislature that the adjustments contained in this bill prevail and that the 2 laws, if both are enacted, not be considered to be in conflict.