

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 FIRST REGULAR SESSION
2

3 ONE HUNDRED AND ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE
4

5 Legislative Document

No. 794

6
7 H.P. 643

House of Representatives, February 16, 1983

8 Referred to the Committee on Transportation. Sent up for concurrence
9 and ordered printed.

10 EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative Holloway of Edgecomb.

Cosponsor: Senator Kany of Kennebec.

11
12 STATE OF MAINE
13

14 IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
15 NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-THREE
16

17 AN ACT to Change the Annual Renewal of
18 Motor Vehicle Registration from a Fixed
19 Date to the Birth Month of the Vehicle
20 Owner.
21

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

24 Sec. 1. 29 MRSA §106, sub-§§2 and 3, as repealed
25 and replaced by PL 1979, c. 664, are repealed and the
26 following enacted in their place:

27 2. Automobile registrations and reregistrations.
28 Automobile registrations and reregistrations shall be
29 in accordance with this subsection.

30 A. Automobile registrations, except for automo-
31 biles owned by corporations, shall expire annu-
32 ally on the last day of the month of the automo-
33 bile owner's birthday.

1 B. Automobile registrations for automobiles
2 owned by corporations shall expire on the last
3 day of the month, one year from the month of
4 issuance.

5 3. Automobile registrations due in 1983 and
6 1984. Automobile registrations due in 1983, follow-
7 ing the effective date of this subsection, and 1984
8 shall be subject to the procedure in this subsection
9 exclusively for the period between November 1, 1983,
10 and December 31, 1984.

11 A. The cost of new registrations shall be pro-
12 rated to reflect the cost for that portion of the
13 year for which the registration is valid. The
14 Secretary of State shall establish a procedure
15 for issuing new registrations scheduled to expire
16 within 3 months following the issue of these
17 registrations. This procedure shall provide that
18 new registrations may be issued for a period not
19 to exceed 15 months.

20 B. This paragraph applies to registration fees
21 for automobiles of owners whose birthdays occur
22 in 1983, on or following the effective date of
23 this subsection. For persons whose birthdays
24 occur in 1983 following the effective date of
25 this subsection and whose current valid automo-
26 bile registration extends into 1984, the regis-
27 tration fee due in 1983 shall be the total cost
28 of the automobile registration minus the credit
29 as computed according to subparagraph (1).

30 (1) The credit period shall be the period
31 from the month in which the motor vehicle
32 was registered initially in 1983 to the end
33 of the month of the birthday of the automo-
34 bile owner in November or December of 1983.
35 The credit provided in subsection 2 shall be
36 computed by dividing the total cost of
37 registration by the number of months in the
38 credit period.

39 C. This paragraph pertains to registration fees
40 for automobiles of owners whose birthdays in 1983
41 occurred prior to the effective date of this sub-
42 section. The registration fees for automobiles

1 of owners whose birthdays occurred in 1983, prior
2 to the effective date of this subsection, and
3 whose current 1983 registration will expire pre-
4 vious to the owner's birthday in 1984, shall be
5 the total cost of motor vehicle registration plus
6 the debit as computed according to subparagraph
7 (1). For automobiles qualifying under this sub-
8 section, the registration for 1984 only, shall be
9 on the date the 1983 registration expires.
10 Thereafter, the registration shall be due on the
11 last day of the birth month of the automobile
12 owner.

13 (1) The debit period shall be the period
14 from the month in which the current automo-
15 bile registration expires in 1984 to the end
16 of the month of the owner's birthday in
17 1984. The debit, as provided in this para-
18 graph, shall be computed by dividing the
19 total cost of the automobile registration by
20 the number of months in the debit period.

21 D. This paragraph pertains to registration fees
22 for automobiles of owners whose birthdays
23 occurred in 1983 prior to the effective date of
24 this subsection. For automobiles of owners whose
25 birthdays occurred in 1983, prior to the effec-
26 tive date of this subsection, and whose current
27 1983 automobile registration will expire in 1984
28 following the owner's birthday, the registration
29 fees shall be the total cost of registration
30 minus the credit defined in subparagraph (1).

31 (1) The credit period shall be the period
32 from the month of the automobile owner's
33 birthday in 1984 to the month in which the
34 current automobile registration expires in
35 1984. The credit, as provided in this para-
36 graph, shall be computed by dividing the
37 total cost of registration by the number of
38 months in the credit periods.

39 E. This paragraph pertains to automobile regis-
40 trations in more than one name. For the purpose
41 of this subsection, automobiles not owned by cor-
42 porations and registered in more than one name,
43 the registration month shall be the birth month
44 of the principal user.

1 Sec. 2. 29 MRSA §106, sub-§§4, 5 and 6 are
2 enacted to read:

3 4. Application for registration after expiration
4 of previous registration. Except as provided in this
5 subsection, when application for registration of an
6 automobile, motor truck or truck tractor is made
7 after the registration for the previous year has
8 been expired for more than 30 days, the expiration
9 date of the renewal shall be at the end of the month,
10 one year from the month of issuance of the previous
11 registration. If the applicant provides satisfactory
12 evidence and certifies in writing to the Secretary of
13 State that the vehicle has not been operated on a
14 public way during the period of the expired registra-
15 tion, the registration expiration date, upon renewal,
16 is at the end of the month one year from the month of
17 issuance of the registration renewal.

18 5. Fleets of motor vehicles. Any person who has
19 a fleet of 5 or more automobiles, trucks or truck
20 tractors may petition the Secretary of State for a
21 common expiration date of all vehicles in the fleet.

22 6. Number plates. Number plates or a suitable
23 device in lieu thereof furnished for the next regis-
24 tration period for automobiles, motor trucks and
25 truck tractors may be displayed on the first day of
26 the month in which the current registration expires.

27 Sec. 3. 36 MRSA §1482, sub-§1, ¶C, as amended by
28 PL 1981, c. 107, §1, is further amended to read:

29 C. For the privilege of operating a motor vehi-
30 cle upon the public ways, each motor vehicle,
31 other than a stock race car, to be so operated
32 shall be subject to such excise tax as follows: A
33 sum equal to 24 mills on each dollar of the
34 maker's list price for the first or current year
35 of model, 17 1/2 mills for the 2nd year, 13 1/2
36 mills for the 3rd year, 10 mills for the 4th
37 year, 6 1/2 mills for the 5th year and 4 mills
38 for the 6th and succeeding years. The minimum tax
39 for a motor vehicle other than bicycle with motor
40 attached shall be \$5, for bicycle with motor
41 attached, \$2.50. The excise tax on a stock race
42 car shall be \$5.

1 (1) Prorating of excise tax for automobiles
2 not owned by corporations for the period
3 November 1, 1983, to December 31, 1984 only,
4 in accordance with the automobile registra-
5 tion schedule in Title 29, section 106, sub-
6 section 3.

7 Where the excise tax is for 12 months or
8 less, it shall be prorated and computed by
9 dividing the number of months the excise tax
10 is to be paid by 12 and multiplying the
11 result by the mill rate as specified for the
12 appropriate model year, as specified in this
13 paragraph, times the maker's list price.
14 Where the excise tax is for more than 12
15 months, it shall be computed by multiplying
16 the mill rate for the appropriate model year
17 times the maker's list price and adding to
18 that sum an amount equal to the product of
19 the number of months of the excise payment
20 in excess of 12 divided by 12 times the mill
21 rate for the next model year as specified in
22 this paragraph multiplied by the maker's
23 list price.

24 (2) On new registrations of automobiles,
25 trucks and truck tractors, the excise tax
26 payment shall be made prior to registration
27 and shall be for a one-year period from the
28 date of registration.

29 STATEMENT OF FACT

30 The purpose of this bill is to simplify the auto-
31 mobile registration requirements. Presently, the
32 general public has difficulty remembering when an
33 automobile is required to be registered.

34 This bill links automobile registration to the
35 owner's birth month. This bill exempts automobiles
36 owned by corporations and automobile fleets from this
37 change in registration. For automobiles registered
38 in more than one name, the registration month is the
39 birth month of the principal user.

1 This bill also provides for the proration of
2 registration and automobile excise tax fees.

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