

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 FIRST REGULAR SESSION  
2

3 ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE  
4

5 Legislative Document

No. 263

6  
7 H.P. 229

House of Representatives, January 29, 1985

8 Submitted by the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation pursuant  
9 to Joint Rule 19. Approved by Legislative Council April 25, 1984.

10 Reported by Representative Macomber from the Committee on  
Transportation and printed under Joint Rule 19.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

11  
12 STATE OF MAINE  
13

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

17 AN ACT Relating to a New Registration Plate  
18 Issue.  
19

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

22 Sec. 1. 29 MRSA §5, first ¶, as amended by PL  
23 1971, c. 360, §2, is further amended to read:

24 The Secretary of State or the duly designated of-  
25 ficial in charge of vehicle registration shall pur-  
26 chase and cause to be installed at the State Prison  
27 the necessary equipment and materials for the produc-  
28 tion of all vehicle registration plates used in the  
29 State. No such plates shall be purchased for state  
30 use except such as cannot be produced at the prison  
31 or are to support a new general issue referred to in  
32 section 131. Purchases under this section shall be  
33 in accordance with Title 5, section 1816.

34 Sec. 2. 29 MRSA Art. 1-A is enacted to read:



1 year for which plates are issued, notify the Secretary  
2 of State in writing of their desire to retain  
3 their registration number. Holders of initial plates  
4 shall pay the sum of \$15 which shall be credited  
5 towards renewal of the initial plates reserved. If a  
6 person wishes to retain his registration number and  
7 does not have a vehicle to register on July 1st, he  
8 may hold his registration number for a maximum of 2  
9 registration years by depositing with the Secretary  
10 of State the sum of \$10 for each year. These fees  
11 are not refundable and shall not be applied as part  
12 payment of the registration fee.

13 All numbers other than those reserved shall be re-  
14 leased and issued in rotation after July 1st, except  
15 that a person wishing to select a number out of rota-  
16 tion may do so by paying his registration fee and a  
17 reserved number fee of \$5.

18 2. Nonplate issue year. When a person fails to  
19 reregister during a nonplate issue year and the reg-  
20 istration remains expired for 3 consecutive months,  
21 his reservation of the same number may cease and the  
22 number becomes available for reissuance or reassign-  
23 ment, or both.

24 Sec. 4. Allocation. The following funds are al-  
25 located from the Highway Fund to carry out the pur-  
26 poses of this Act.

	<u>1985-86</u>	<u>1986-87</u>
27		
28	<u>SECRETARY OF STATE,</u>	
29	<u>DEPARTMENT OF</u>	
30	Division of Motor Vehicles	
31	Positions	(19) (19)
32	Personal Services	\$ 102,128 \$220,039
33	All Other	2,043,988 227,220
34	Capital Expenditures	<u>6,216</u>
35	Total	\$2,152,332 \$447,259

1 STATEMENT OF FACT

2 The Division of Motor Vehicles of the Department  
3 of Secretary of State requested the Joint Standing  
4 Committee on Transportation to allocate highway funds  
5 for a new general issue of registration plates in  
6 1986. The Division of Motor Vehicles justified its  
7 request by explaining that registration plates were  
8 meant to have a useful life of 6 years, but current  
9 plates are 10 years old. As a result, many plates  
10 have deteriorated seriously and there is evidence to  
11 show that the battered condition of the plates seri-  
12 ously hampers law enforcement of registration laws.

13 The Joint Standing Committee on Transportation  
14 requested authorization to study this problem and to  
15 come up with a solution. The committee learned 2 im-  
16 portant pieces of information which make action nec-  
17 cessary to resolve the problem as soon as possible.

18 1. A survey of evasion of motor vehicle regis-  
19 tration in Maine undertaken by the Department of  
20 Transportation shows an evasion rate of 4.7% which  
21 translates into an annual loss of \$500,000 in regis-  
22 tration fees to the Highway Fund and an annual loss  
23 of \$1,100,000 in excise tax revenues to municipali-  
24 ties.

25 2. Registration files at the Division of Motor  
26 Vehicles must be purged. Current Division of Motor  
27 Vehicles files do not indicate active, valid regis-  
28 trations; inactive registrations; or invalid regis-  
29 trations. Presently, the Division of Motor Vehicles  
30 estimates that over 500,000 invalid registrations ap-  
31 pear in their records, but they cannot be readily  
32 distinguished.

33 The committee reviewed several proposals and fi-  
34 nally directed the Division of Motor Vehicles to de-  
35 velop this option. It calls for a general issue of  
36 registration plates every 6 years and first new gen-  
37 eral issue will begin on July 1, 1986.

38 Section 1 of this bill provides authority to pur-  
39 chase, through the bidding process, registration  
40 plates for a new plate issue.

1           Section 2 establishes the date for a new plate  
2 issue and a fee for the new plate, which should gen-  
3 erate revenue of approximately \$1.7 million in fiscal  
4 year 1987.

5           Section 3 provides for the reservation of plate  
6 numbers.

7           Section 4 provides funds to carry out the purpose  
8 of this Act.

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