

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 FIRST REGULAR SESSION  
2

3 ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE  
4

5 Legislative Document

No. 705

6  
7 H.P. 502 House of Representatives, February 26, 1985

8 Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered  
9 printed.

10 EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative McCollister of Canton.

11  
12 STATE OF MAINE  
13

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

17 AN ACT Related to Enforcement Action for  
18 Violations of Proper Display of  
19 License Plates and Motor Vehicle  
20 Inspection Requirements.  
21

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

24 Sec. 1. 29 MRSA §2502, sub-§1, sub-¶¶L and M, as  
25 enacted by PL 1979, c. 464, §5, are amended to read:

26 L. Tires; and

27 M. Windshield wipers; and

28 Sec. 2. 29 MRSA §2502, sub-§1, ¶N is enacted to  
29 read:

30 N. Front and rear registration plates.

31 Sec. 3. 29 MRSA §2503, sub-§4 is enacted to  
32 read:

1       4. Registration plates. Both front and rear  
2 registration plates shall be safety attached or se-  
3 cured to the vehicle and plainly visible at all time.

4       Sec. 4. 29 MRSa §2504, as amended by PL 1983, c.  
5 358, is further amended to read:

6       §2504. Standard for rejection

7       A motor vehicle shall be rejected for violation  
8 of the inspection standard for any one of the defi-  
9 ciencies set forth in this section-.

10       1. Nonfunctioning equipment. Any No person may  
11 operate on any highway or street any vehicle required  
12 to be registered in this State, nor may any vehicle  
13 receive a certificate of inspection, as required by  
14 this chapter, if any equipment as described in sec-  
15 tion 2502 that does not function, does not function  
16 sufficiently for the safety of the general public or  
17 is loose and not securely attached to the vehicle;  
18 and.

19       2. Altered vehicles. No person may operate any  
20 vehicle required to be registered in this State upon  
21 any highway or street, nor shall any vehicle receive  
22 a certificate of inspection, as required by this  
23 chapter, if that vehicle has a bumper height of less  
24 than 10 inches or a height in excess of the maximum  
25 as set by this subsection. Maximum bumper height  
26 shall be based on the manufacturers' gross vehicle  
27 weight rating. Measurements shall be taken from a  
28 level surface to any point on the lower edge of the  
29 main horizontal bumper bar, exclusive of any bumper  
30 guards. Measurements of vehicles not installed with  
31 rear bumpers shall be taken from a level surface to  
32 any point on the lowermost rearward vehicle frame ex-  
33 tension, except that no vehicle may be modified to  
34 cause the vehicle body or chassis to come into con-  
35 tact with the ground or expose the fuel tank to dam-  
36 age from collision or cause the wheels to come in  
37 contact with the body under normal operation, and  
38 that no part of the original suspension system be  
39 disconnected. Nothing contained in this section may  
40 prevent the installation of heavy duty equipment to  
41 include shock absorbers and overload springs; and  
42 nothing contained in this section may prevent a per-

1 son from operating a motor vehicle on a public way  
2 with normal wear of the suspension system if normal  
3 wear does not affect the control of the vehicle.  
4 This section does not apply to motor vehicles that  
5 are being lawfully towed on the highways of this  
6 State. Maximum bumper heights are as follows:

	FRONT	REAR
7		
8 Automobile	22 ins.	22 ins.
9 Vehicles 4,500 lbs. and under GVWR	24 ins.	26 ins.
10 Vehicles 4,501 lbs. to		
11 7,500 lbs. GVWR	27 ins.	29 ins.
12 Vehicles 7,501 lbs. to		
13 10,000 lbs. GVWR	28 ins.	30 ins.

14 3. Missing or obscured registration plates. No  
15 person may operate on any highway or street any vehi-  
16 cle required to be registered in this State, nor may  
17 any vehicle receive a certificate of inspection, as  
18 required by this chapter, if the front and rear reg-  
19 istration plates, as described in section 110, are  
20 not safety attached or secured to the vehicle and  
21 plainly visible. This subsection does not apply to  
22 vehicles not required by law to display front and  
23 rear registration plates.

24 STATEMENT OF FACT

25 This bill requires the proper display of both  
26 front and rear registration plates to receive a cer-  
27 tificate of motor vehicle inspection. This require-  
28 ment, along with the current display criteria, will  
29 address the concern about obscured license plates and  
30 plates blocked by snowplows or snowplow mounts.

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