

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 (EMERGENCY)  
2 (New Draft of H.P. 229, L.D. 263)  
3 SECOND REGULAR SESSION  
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5 ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE  
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7 Legislative Document

No. 2171

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9 H.P. 1540 House of Representatives, March 12, 1986  
10 Reported by the Majority from the Committee on Transportation and  
11 printed under Joint Rule 2. Original bill submitted by the Joint Standing  
12 Committee on Transportation as approved by the Legislative Council on April  
25, 1984.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

13  
14 STATE OF MAINE  
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16 IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD  
17 NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-SIX  
18

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19 AN ACT Relating to a New Registration Plate  
20 Issue.  
21

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22 Emergency preamble. Whereas, Acts of the Legis-  
23 lature do not become effective until 90 days after  
24 adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

25 Whereas, the last general reissue of new license  
26 plates in Maine occurred in 1974; and

27 Whereas, current license plates when issued more  
28 than a decade ago had a useful life expectancy of 6  
29 years; and

30 Whereas, there is considerable evidence to show  
31 that the battered and faded condition of the plates  
32 hamper law enforcement efforts; and

33 Whereas, the Division of Motor Vehicles needs to  
34 purge its files of inactive or invalid registrations  
35 as soon as possible; and



1 This guidance is meant to be applied in accordance  
2 with the authority held by the Secretary of State in  
3 section 110.

4 The Secretary of State shall adopt rules in ac-  
5 cordance with Title 5, chapter 375, to implement this  
6 article. In these rules, the Secretary of State may  
7 include provisions to protect the integrity of the  
8 Maine motor vehicle registration plate, to provide  
9 for the issue of replacement plates and any other  
10 provisions to facilitate the implementation of this  
11 article.

12 §132. Fees for new issues of registration plates

13 A fee of \$1 for each registration plate shall be  
14 collected by the Secretary of State from the vehicle  
15 registrant for new registration plate issues as re-  
16 ferred to in section 131. This fee shall be in addi-  
17 tion to any other registration fees required by this  
18 Title.

19 Sec. 2. 29 MRS §191, as amended by PL 1983, c.  
20 455, §10, is repealed and the following enacted in  
21 its place:

22 §191. Reservation of same number

23 1. Plate issue year. The Secretary of State  
24 shall reserve until April 1st the same registration  
25 number for the succeeding registration year for per-  
26 sons who notify the Secretary of State prior to Jan-  
27 uary 1st in writing of their desire to retain their  
28 registration number. The fee for retention of the  
29 same registration number is \$5.

30 If a person wishes to retain his registration number  
31 and does not have a vehicle to register on April 1st,  
32 he may hold his registration number for a maximum of  
33 2 registration years by depositing with the Secretary  
34 of State the sum of \$10 for each year. These fees  
35 are not refundable and shall not be applied as part  
36 payment of the registration fee.

37 All numbers other than those reserved shall be re-  
38 leased and issued in rotation after April 1st, except  
39 that a person wishing to select a number out of rota-

1 tion may do so by paying his registration fee and a  
2 reserved number fee of \$5.

3  Holders of initial plates shall pay the sum of \$15  
4  which shall be credited toward renewal of the initial  
5  plates reserved.

6  2. Nonplate issue year. When a person fails to  
7  reregister during a nonplate issue year and the reg-  
8  istration remains expired for 6 consecutive months,  
9  his reservation of the same number may cease and the  
10  number becomes available for reissuance or reassign-  
11  ment, or both.

12  Sec. 3. Allocation. The following funds are al-  
13  located from the Highway Fund to carry out the pur-  
14  poses of this Act.

15  1985-86 1986-87  
16  SECRETARY OF STATE,  
17  DEPARTMENT OF

18	Division of Motor Vehicles		
19	Personal Services		\$156,146
20	All Other	\$1,324,732	258,339
21	Capital Expenditures		9,900
22	Total	\$1,324,732	\$424,385

23 Provides funds in fis-  
24 cal year 1985-86 to  
25 purchase license plate  
26 materials. Provides  
27 funds in fiscal year  
28 1986-87 to purchase  
29 additional materials  
30 needed as well as to  
31 hire 11 project em-  
32 ployees as follows: 7  
33 manufacturing project  
34 employees; 2 laborer  
35 project employees; and  
36 2 clerical project em-  
37 ployees. These 11  
38 project employees  
39 shall be employed for  
40 a maximum of 16  
41 months.



1 committee learned 2 important pieces of information  
2 which point to necessary action.

3 1. A survey of evasion of motor vehicle regis-  
4 tration in Maine undertaken by the Department of  
5 Transportation shows an evasion rate of 4.7% which  
6 translates into an annual loss of \$500,000 in regis-  
7 tration fees to the Highway Fund and an annual loss  
8 of \$1,100,000 in excise tax revenues to municipali-  
9 ties.

10 2. Registration files at the Division of Motor  
11 Vehicles must be purged. Current Division of Motor  
12 Vehicles files do not indicate active, valid regis-  
13 trations; inactive registrations; or invalid regis-  
14 trations. Presently, the Division of Motor Vehicles  
15 estimates that over 500,000 invalid registrations ap-  
16 pear in their records, but they cannot be readily  
17 distinguished.

18 The committee reviewed several proposals and fi-  
19 nally directed the Division of Motor Vehicles to pre-  
20 pare L.D. 263 which was discussed at length along  
21 with counter proposals from various sources, includ-  
22 ing proposals from the Secretary of State. Uncertain-  
23 ty about the best way to finance the reissue prompted  
24 the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation to  
25 hold the bill over to this Second Regular Session of  
26 the 112th Legislature for further consideration.

27 This new draft calls for a general issue regis-  
28 tration plate every 6 years and the first new general  
29 issue will begin on April 1, 1987.

30 Section 1 establishes the date for a new plate  
31 issue and a fee for the new plate, which should gen-  
32 erate revenue of approximately \$1,865,000.

33 Section 2 provides for the reservation of plate  
34 numbers.

35 Section 3 provides funds to carry out the purpose  
36 of this new draft.

37 6723031186