

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

NO. 176

H.P. 135 House of Representatives, February 3, 1987
Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested
and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk
Presented by Representative GWADOSKY of Fairfield.
Cosponsored by Representatives STROUT of Corinth and
RACINE of Biddeford.

STATE OF MAINE

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

AN ACT to Amend the Law Concerning
Handicapped Motor Vehicle
Registrations.

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5 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as
6 follows:

7 Sec. 1. 29 MRSA §252, first ¶, as amended by PL
8 1985, c. 325, is repealed and the following enacted
9 in its place:

10 On annual application to the Secretary of State,
11 any handicapped person shall be issued a special des-
12 ignating placard to be fixed to the sun visor of a
13 motor vehicle properly registered in this State. In
14 these cases, the placard may be displayed only during
15 the time when the handicapped person is the driver of
16 the vehicle, when the handicapped person is a passen-

1 ger in a vehicle, when the driver of the vehicle is
2 transporting the handicapped person or when the driv-
3 er is waiting for a service to be rendered to the
4 handicapped person. The placard issued under this
5 section shall bear the name of the handicapped per-
6 son. A \$1 fee shall be charged for the placard.

7 Sec. 2. 29 MRSA §252, next to the last ¶, as
8 amended by PL 1977, c. 194, §2, is further amended to
9 read:

10 Any person other than a handicapped person or the
11 spouse of a handicapped person issued a set of spe-
12 cial designating plates or placard under this section
13 shall be subject to a \$100 fine for use of the spe-
14 cial designating plates or placard. The special des-
15 ignating plates or placard shall be suspended if im-
16 proper use is permitted.

17 Sec. 3. 29 MRSA §252-A, as enacted by PL 1979,
18 c. 371, §1, is amended to read:

19 §252-A. Disabled veterans; special free license
20 plates

21 The Secretary of State on application and upon
22 evidence of payment of the excise tax required by Ti-
23 tle 36, section 1482 shall issue a registration cer-
24 tificate and set of special designating plates to be
25 used in lieu of regular registration plates to any
26 100% disabled veteran who served in the United States
27 Armed Forces in a combat zone at any time during his
28 tenure of service when that application is accompa-
29 nied by certification from the United States Veterans
30 Administration as to the veteran's disability and re-
31 ceipt of 100% service-connected benefits and that the
32 veteran is permanently confined to a wheelchair or
33 restricted to the use of crutches or braces or other-
34 wise handicapped in such a way that his mobility is
35 seriously restricted and a copy of the appropriate
36 military form certifying combat duty service.

37 These special designating plates shall bear the
38 ~~International Symbol~~, easily recognizable at a dis-
39 tance, and the letters VET which indicates that the
40 vehicle is owned by a disabled veteran.

1 Sec. 4. 29 MRSA §252-C, 3rd ¶, as repealed and
2 replaced by PL 1985, c. 737, Pt. A, §79, is amended
3 to read:

4 Temporary handicapped placards shall be of a
5 design and color established by the Secretary of State
6 and the placards shall show the expiration date spec-
7 ified by the physician who prepared the prescription
8 request.

9 Sec. 5. 29 MRSA §252-C, last ¶, as repealed and
10 replaced by PL 1985, c. 737, Pt. A, §79, is amended
11 to read:

12 A person to whom a temporary placard has been is-
13 sued under this section is entitled to the same
14 rights and privileges as a person to whom a ~~plate~~ ~~or~~
15 placard is issued under section 252, during the term
16 of that temporary placard.

17 Sec. 6. 29 MRSA §255, last ¶, as enacted by PL
18 1985, c. 406, §1, is amended to read:

19 No registration ~~or~~ ~~license~~ may be required for a
20 converted motor vehicle used as a woods tractor when
21 the woods tractor is used solely for logging pur-
22 poses, and the woods tractor may be operated, without
23 registration ~~or~~ ~~license~~, from or to the premises
24 where the woods tractor is kept, to or from a wood
25 lot and between wood lots, used for logging purposes
26 by the owner of the woods tractor. The woods tractor
27 may be operated, without registration ~~or~~ ~~license~~,
28 from or to a filling station garage for gas, oil or
29 repairs.

30 Sec. 7. 29 MRSA §259, as enacted by PL 1975, c.
31 85, is amended to read:

32 §259. Change of location or status; motor vehicle

33 Whenever any person, firm or corporation, after
34 applying for and receiving a registration for any mo-
35 tor vehicle, trailer or semitrailer, shall move from
36 the address named in such application or in the reg-
37 istration issued, or when the name of the holder of
38 such registration is changed by marriage or other-
39 wise, such person, firm or corporation shall within

1 30 10 days thereafter notify the Secretary of State,
2 in writing, of the old and new address or of such
3 former and new names and of the number of registra-
4 tions then held by such person, firm or corporation.

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STATEMENT OF FACT

6 Section 1 of the bill eliminates the chronic mis-
7 use and abuse by persons not entitled to park in des-
8 ignated handicapped spaces throughout the State.

9 Section 2 is to allow this paragraph to coincide
10 with the change in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title
11 29, section 252, first paragraph, which eliminates
12 the word plate and insures the placard is issued only
13 to the handicapped person.

14 Section 3 is to restrict the use of "handicapped"
15 plates for veterans to those veterans whose physical
16 mobility is restricted as a result of service in com-
17 bat zones. Currently, the law requires that whenever
18 a veteran is certified by the United States Veterans
19 Administration as 100% disabled, the State is re-
20 quired to provide "handicapped" plates to eligible
21 veterans. Current law also requires the disability
22 to have been incurred in a combat zone. In some
23 cases, veterans are not physically handicapped or im-
24 paired, but they are certified as 100% disabled by
25 the United States Veterans Administration. As a re-
26 sult, members of the general public criticize the
27 distribution of "handicapped" registration plates to
28 United States veterans.

29 Section 4 is to differentiate between a regular
30 placard and a temporary placard issued.

31 Section 5 is to bring this section of the law in
32 line with the change in the Maine Revised Statutes,
33 Title 252, which eliminates plates from the handicap
34 law. Otherwise a conflict would result.

1 Section 6 eliminates any nonlicensed persons from
2 operating these type vehicles. Currently, the law is
3 worded in such a way that an individual of any age
4 may operate the vehicle.

5 Section 7 is to require a change of name or ad-
6 dress to be reported to the Secretary of State within
7 10 days.

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