

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(EMERGENCY)  
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION  
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 1900

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S.P. 667 In Senate, October 5, 1987  
Approved for Introduction by a Majority of the Legislative  
Council pursuant to Joint Rule 26.

Received by the Secretary of the Senate on October 1,  
1987. Referred to the Committee on Transportation and 1,650  
ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 14.

JOY J. O'BRIEN, Secretary of the Senate  
Presented by Senator DOW of Kennebec.

Cosponsored by Representative MOHOLLAND of Princeton,  
Representative STROUT of Corinth, Representative CALLAHAN of  
Mechanic Falls.

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STATE OF MAINE

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

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1 AN ACT to Amend the Motor Vehicles Laws.  
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3 Emergency preamble. Whereas, Acts of the Legis-  
4 lature do not become effective until 90 days after  
5 adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

6 Whereas, vehicles must be licensed for fuel tax  
7 reporting prior to the above date; and

8 Whereas, under current law some vehicles are un-  
9 necessarily required to be licensed and the vehicle's  
10 owner is required to pay the license fee; and

11 Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature,  
12 these facts create an emergency within the meaning of  
13 the Constitution of Maine and require the following  
14 legislation as immediately necessary for the preser-

1 vation of the public peace, health and safety; now,  
2 therefore,

3 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as  
4 follows:

5 **Sec. 1. 29 MRSA §242, sub-§1, ¶A, as amended by**  
6 **PL 1983, c. 94, Pt. C, §1, is repealed and the fol-**  
7 **lowing enacted in its place:**

8 A. Automobiles used for the conveyance of pas-  
9 sengers, \$20. Automobiles which are used inter-  
10 changeably for the conveyance of passengers or  
11 property shall pay a \$20 fee. Such vehicles shall  
12 be designated as "combinations" and may be issued  
13 a special plate with the word "combination" in  
14 lieu of "Vacationland." Commercial plates shall  
15 not be issued to or displayed on automobiles.  
16 Motor vehicles used for the conveyance of passen-  
17 gers which are operated exclusively on islands  
18 having no roads maintained or supported by the  
19 State shall be registered for a fee of \$2.

20 For the purposes of registration only, a pickup  
21 truck may be registered as provided for automo-  
22 biles provided that at no time shall the gross  
23 weight of a pickup truck so registered exceed  
24 6,000 pounds when used as a motor truck or truck  
25 tractor. The owner of such a pickup truck desir-  
26 ing a gross weight in excess of 6,000 pounds  
27 shall register the truck as provided in section  
28 246.

29 The registration fee for an electrically powered  
30 passenger vehicle with a gross vehicle weight of  
31 6,000 pounds or less shall be \$10 greater than  
32 the registration fee for a similar vehicle  
33 powered by an internal combustion engine.

34 **Sec. 2. 29 MRSA §246-A, sub-§2, as repealed and**  
35 **replaced by PL 1987, c. 472, §§1 and 4, is amended to**  
36 **read:**

37 **2. Vehicles requiring a fuel use identification**  
38 **decals. The following vehicles require a fuel use**  
39 **identification decal:**

- 1 A. All motor vehicles or combination of vehicles  
2 propelled by internal combustion engines and,  
3 registered for a gross weight in excess of 26,000  
4 pounds, ~~regardless of the type of the fuel used;~~  
5 and which use fuel other than gasoline; and
- 6 ~~B. All motor vehicles or combination of vehicles~~  
7 ~~propelled by internal combustion engines with 3~~  
8 ~~or more axes, regardless of registered weight or~~  
9 ~~type of fuel used; and~~
- 10 C. All other motor vehicles propelled by inter-  
11 nal combustion engines designed to carry 20 or  
12 more passengers, ~~regardless of the number of ax-~~  
13 ~~les, registered weight or type of fuel used~~ and  
14 which use fuel other than gasoline.

15 Interstate bus operators shall be required to obtain  
16 this decal on the same prorated basis as is used to  
17 determine fuel used within the State. The number of  
18 buses that the state mileage factor represents of the  
19 entire fleet mileage shall be required to display the  
20 fuel use identification decal or be issued a certi-  
21 fied statement that the appropriate fee has been  
22 paid.

23 Farm vehicles and farm motor trucks subject to a lim-  
24 ited inspection, as provided in section 2506, subsec-  
25 tion 5, are not required to have a fuel use identifi-  
26 cation decal pursuant to this section.

27 Operators of one-way rental vehicle fleets shall be  
28 required to obtain the fuel decal on the same basis  
29 as is used to determine the number of vehicles regis-  
30 tered in this State. The number of one-way vehicles  
31 that this registration factor represents of the en-  
32 tire one-way rental fleet shall be required to dis-  
33 play the fuel use identification decal.

34 Sec. 3. 29 MRSA §360-A is enacted to read:

35 §360-A. Transit placard

36 A transit placard may be issued upon application  
37 to the Secretary of State by any person involved in  
38 the business of importing new motor vehicles to fa-  
39 cilitate the movement over the highway of the motor

1 vehicles from the port of entry to a storage yard  
2 within a 10-mile radius of the port.

3 A transit placard shall be displayed in or on any  
4 unregistered motor vehicle which is being operated or  
5 towed from the port to a storage yard. In no event  
6 shall any transit placard be used for any purpose  
7 other than that which is permitted under this sec-  
8 tion. Transit placards shall not be used on a towing  
9 vehicle.

10 Transit placards shall expire at the end of the  
11 month one year from the month of issue.

12 The fee for a transit license shall be \$100 annu-  
13 ally and the fee for each placard shall be \$10. Gov-  
14 ernment and quasi-government agencies shall not be  
15 assessed a fee.

16 **Sec. 4. 29 MRSA §1757, first ¶, as enacted by PL**  
17 **1987, c. 169, is amended to read:**

18 Any vehicle once modified for the purposes of  
19 snowplowing is exempt from the weight limits imposed  
20 by this chapter when equipped with a snowplow and  
21 wing or wings and engaged in snow plowing or ice con-  
22 trol for the State or a municipality.

23 **Sec. 5. 29 MRSA §2448, last ¶, as enacted by PL**  
24 **1987, c. 485, §18, is repealed.**

25 **Sec 6. 36 MRSA §3202, sub-§9, as repealed and**  
26 **replaced by PL 1987, c. 472, §§2 and 4, is amended to**  
27 **read:**

28 9. User. "User" means any person who is the  
29 registered owner of a motor vehicle which: Is regis-  
30 tered for a gross weight of more than 26,000 pounds,  
31 ~~or which has 3 or more axes regardless of registered~~  
32 ~~weight, or which;~~ is designed to carry 20 or more  
33 passengers, ~~who;~~ and uses and consumes special fuel  
34 within this State in an internal combustion engine  
35 for the generation of power to propel a motor vehi-  
36 cle.

37 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited  
38 in the preamble, this Act shall take effect on Janu-  
39 ary 1, 1988.

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STATEMENT OF FACT

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The purpose of this bill is to exempt the operators of pickup trucks and other light vehicles towing utility or recreational trailers from the fuel use licensing laws. This bill also exempts all gasoline-powered vehicles from licensing as the gasoline user tax was repealed. Therefore, licensing is no longer appropriate.

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This bill also allows the Secretary of State to issue combination registration plates to passenger vehicles that are used both for commercial and general passenger use. By allowing the Secretary of State to issue these plates, it is possible for passenger-type vehicles used commercially to have the privileges of commercial vehicles.

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This bill provides a temporary registration for motor vehicles which are delivered to this State from overseas. It will allow the vehicles to be moved from the port to a storage yard until such time that they can be picked up by car carriers and delivered to the respective automobile dealerships.

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This bill specifies that only trucks engaged in snowplowing and ice control for the State or a municipality are exempt from weight limits. It also eliminates any restriction as to who may purchase salvage vehicles from an insurance salvage pool.

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