

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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L.D. 774

(Filing No. H- 100)

STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
114TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 570, L.D. 774, Bill, "An Act to Provide Motor Vehicle Registration Plates to Surviving Spouses of Prisoners of War"

Amend the bill by inserting before the enacting clause the following:

Emergency preamble. Whereas, Acts of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, the Legislature desires to extend recognition to the surviving spouses of prisoners of war; and

Whereas, under present law the surviving spouse must return any special plates upon the death of a former prisoner of war, while under this legislation the surviving spouse may keep those plates or regain them if they have already been returned; and

Whereas, the Legislature desires to place this new system into place as soon as possible in order that no more bereaved spouses be required to go through the indignity of returning the special plates; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

Further amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and before the statement of fact and inserting in its place the following:

Sec. 1. 29 MRSA §252-E, first ¶, as enacted by PL 1985, c. 737, Pt. A, §80, is amended to read:

The Secretary of State, on application and upon evidence of payment of the excise tax required by Title 36, section 1482,

1 shall issue a registration certificate and set of special
2 designating plates to be used in lieu of regular registration
3 plates to any person who served in the United States Armed Forces
4 and who was a prisoner of war at any time during his tenure of
5 service, or the surviving spouse of that person, when that
6 application is accompanied by a copy of the appropriate military
7 form certifying that the person is a former prisoner of war. This
8 special license plate is issued specifically to former prisoners
9 of war and their spouses and the privilege of using the special
10 plate is not transferable only to the former prisoner's spouse.
11 Upon the death of the former prisoner of war, the surviving
12 spouse may retain and display the special license plate. Upon
13 remarriage, the surviving spouse may not use the special license
14 plate on a motor vehicle, but may retain it as a keepsake. Upon
15 the death of the surviving spouse, the family may retain the
16 special license plate, but not use it on a motor vehicle.

17
18 **Sec. 2. Notification to surviving spouse.** The Division of Motor
19 Vehicles shall notify the surviving spouse of any former prisoner
20 of war who previously held special registration plates that the
21 surviving spouse may obtain special registration plates in
22 accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 29, section
23 252-E.

24 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the
25 preamble, this Act shall take effect when approved.
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29 **FISCAL NOTE**

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31 This bill will result in a negligible loss of Highway Fund
32 revenue which can be absorbed within existing resources.
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36 **STATEMENT OF FACT**

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38 This amendment retains the intent of the bill to extend the
39 privilege of free special license plates to the surviving spouse
40 of a former prisoner of war. Upon the death or remarriage of the
41 surviving spouse, those special license plates may be retained by
42 the family, but not used on a motor vehicle. The amendment also
43 adds an emergency preamble, emergency clause and fiscal note to
44 the bill.
45

Reported by the Committee on Transportation
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