

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 115th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1990

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Legislative Document

No. 78

S.P. 48

In Senate, December 31, 1990

Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN  
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot.

Cosponsored by Senator VOSE of Washington and Senator TWITCHELL of Oxford.

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STATE OF MAINE

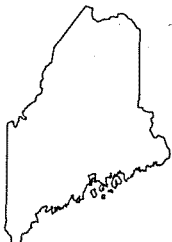
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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD  
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND NINETY

---

An Act to Eliminate the Front Motor Vehicle License Plate.

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

2  
4       **Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §7, 4th ¶**, as repealed and replaced by PL 1969,  
c. 544, §1, is amended to read:

6       All state-owned vehicles, except as otherwise provided,  
7 shall ~~must~~ display a special registration ~~plates~~ plate, approved  
8 by the Secretary of State, plainly designating them as  
9 state-owned motor vehicles. They may in addition display a marker  
10 or insignia, approved by the Secretary of State, plainly  
11 designating them as state-owned. Motor vehicles used by  
12 departments, commissions or agencies charged by law with law  
13 enforcement or investigatory functions, if used for those  
14 purposes by personnel who have full-time law enforcement or  
15 investigatory duties, shall are not be required to display a  
16 special registration plate.

18       **Sec. 2. 10 MRSA §1661-A**, as repealed and replaced by PL 1989,  
19 c. 83, §1, is amended to read:

20       **§1661-A. Gasoline stations to provide services for**  
21       **handicapped drivers**

22       Every full-service gasoline station offering self-service  
23 pumping at a lesser cost shall require an attendant employed by  
24 the station to dispense gasoline to any motor vehicle properly  
25 displaying a handicapped placard or a special designating ~~plates~~  
26 plate issued under Title 29, section 252, when the person to whom  
27 the placard or ~~plates~~-have plate has been issued is the operator  
28 of the vehicle, the service is requested, the operator has a  
29 driver's license designated with a code H, restricted to special  
30 equipment, and there is no nonhandicapped adult in the motor  
31 vehicle.

32       **Sec. 3. 12 MRSA §931**, as enacted by PL 1981, c. 13, is  
33 amended to read:

34       **§931. Access to state-owned parks, camping areas and**  
35       **beaches**

36       Any disabled veteran displaying on his a motor vehicle a  
37 special designating ~~plates~~ plate or placards issued in accordance  
38 with Title 29, section 252-A shall is not be assessed a fee for  
39 admission to any state-owned park, camping area or beach.

40       **Sec. 4. 29 MRSA §1, sub-§10-A**, as amended by PL 1975, c. 745,  
41 §6, is further amended to read:

42       **10-A. Registration.** "Registration" ~~shall-mean~~ means the  
43 registration certificate, ~~plates~~ plate and renewal devices  
44 pertaining to the registration of vehicles and short-term permits  
45 as provided in section 246.  
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2           **Sec. 5. 29 MRSA §55-B, 2nd ¶**, as enacted by PL 1989, c. 866,  
Pt. A, §1 and affected by Pt. B, §26, is amended to read:

4  
6           Upon receipt of a notification given by the State Tax  
Assessor in accordance with Title 36, section 1955-A or section  
8           1955-B, the Secretary of State shall promptly mail a notice to  
the person liable for the tax warning ~~sueh~~ the person that if the  
10           amount of tax due is not paid within 10 days after mailing of  
~~sueh~~ the notice, suspension of the registration certificate and  
12           plates plate issued for the vehicle in question will result. If  
the person fails to pay the required amount within 10 days after  
14           mailing of the notice, the Secretary of State shall, pursuant to  
chapter 17, immediately suspend the registration certificate and  
16           plates plate issued for the vehicle ~~in respect to~~ for which the  
tax remains unpaid.

18           **Sec. 6. 29 MRSA §106, first ¶**, as amended by PL 1989, c. 71, §8  
and c. 866, Pt. A, §2 and affected by c. 866, Pt. B, §26, is  
20           further amended to read:

22           The registration year for all vehicles, except automobiles,  
newly acquired motor trucks, truck tractors, motorcycles, mopeds,  
24           motor-driven cycles and motor homes is from March 1st to the last  
day of February of the next calendar year. On and after February  
26           1st, it is lawful to use and display on ~~sueh~~ the vehicles ~~the~~ a  
number plates plate or a suitable devices device in lieu thereof  
28           of the plate issued for the registration year. This section  
~~shall--apply~~ applies to motorcycles, mopeds and motor-driven  
30           cycles for reregistration in 1989 only.

32           **Sec. 7. 29 MRSA §106, sub-§3**, as amended by PL 1989, c. 866,  
Pt. A, §2 and affected by Pt. B, §26, is further amended to read:

34  
36           **3. Number plate.** ~~Number--plates~~ A number plate or a  
suitable device in lieu thereof of the plate furnished for the  
38           next registration period for automobiles, motor trucks, truck  
tractors, motorcycles, mopeds, ~~motor-driven~~ motor-driven cycles  
40           and motor homes may be displayed on the first day of the month in  
which the current registration expires.

42           **Sec. 8. 29 MRSA §110**, as amended by PL 1989, c. 866, Pt. B,  
§4 and affected by §26, is further amended to read:

44           **§110. Form of plate**

46  
48           The Secretary of State shall furnish a suitable number  
plates plate, seals and other distinguishing marks, without  
50           charge, to every person except dealers, manufacturers and holders  
of transporter registration plates whose vehicle is registered  
under this Title. ~~These--plates~~ The plate must be of a distinctly

2 different color or shade each year and must be in the form the  
3 Secretary of State determines. The ~~plates~~ plate must bear the  
4 numerals of the year of issue or the last 2 numerals of that  
5 year, the word "Maine" or the abbreviation "Me." in letters not  
6 less than 3/4 inch in height, and on ~~plates~~ the plate issued for  
7 passenger vehicles for private use, hire cars and trucks, there  
8 must be placed at the bottom of the ~~plates~~ plate in letters not  
9 less than 3/4 inch in height the word "Vacationland." The  
10 numerals of the register number on the ~~plates~~ plate, except on  
11 motorcycle number plates, may not be substantially less than 3  
12 inches high. ~~Number-plates~~ A number plate issued for temporary  
13 or special classes of registration must contain a distinguishing  
14 letter, mark or design selected by the Secretary of State. A  
15 vehicle required to be registered in a special class under this  
16 Title may display only the number ~~plates~~ plate designed for that  
special class of registration.

18 Notwithstanding other provisions of law, the Secretary of  
19 State may provide and issue a suitable device in lieu of a new  
20 registration number ~~plates~~ plate for any calendar year. ~~Such~~ The  
21 device ~~shall~~ must clearly indicate the year or period for which  
22 issued and ~~shall--be~~ is furnished only upon application and  
23 payment of registration fees required by statute, and when ~~such~~  
24 the device is so attached to the appropriate vehicle or to the  
25 plate thereon, ~~such~~ the vehicle ~~shall--be~~ is deemed properly  
26 registered for the period specified, subject to suspension or  
27 revocation of registration as provided by statute law.

28 The Secretary of State may issue a permanent registration  
29 ~~plates~~ plate so designed and equipped as to provide for the  
30 reregistration ~~thereof~~ of the plate by changing the expiration  
31 date on ~~such-plates~~ the plate without the issuance of a new  
32 ~~plates~~ plate.

34 **Sec. 9. 29 MRSa §113**, as amended by PL 1983, c. 455, §9, is  
35 further amended to read:

38 **§113. Disposition of registration plates**

40 All registration number plates, issued by the Secretary of  
41 State, shall continue to be the property of the State. Whenever  
42 the owner of a registered vehicle transfers or assigns ~~his~~ the  
43 title, or interest ~~thereto~~ in the vehicle, the registration shall  
44 ~~expire,--whenver~~ expires. Whenever the registration certificate  
45 is suspended, revoked, canceled or has expired without the  
46 intention of renewal or transfer within 6 months, the owner shall  
47 remove the registration ~~plates--therefrom~~ plate from the vehicle  
48 and forward the same along with the registration certificate to  
49 the Secretary of State or may have ~~these-plates~~ the plate and the  
50 registration number ~~thereon~~ assigned in the name of the original  
51 registrant to another vehicle upon payment of the fees required  
52 by law and subject to the rules of the Secretary of State.

2 Whoever steals, takes or carries away any registration number  
plate from any person entitled to its possession is guilty of a  
4 Class E crime.

6 **Sec. 10. 29 MRSA §114, 2nd ¶**, as repealed and placed by PL  
1989, c. 481, Pt. A, §7, is amended to read:

8 The Secretary of State is authorized to design and issue  
10 registration plates for antique autos, horseless carriages,  
street rods and antique motorcycles. These plates shall must  
12 bear the inscription "Maine" and the inscription "Antique Auto,"  
"Horseless Carriage" or "Street Rod," or, for antique  
14 motorcycles, the inscription "Antique." Present owners of  
antique motor vehicles shall--be are permitted to keep their  
16 existing registration plate numbers for the new registration  
plates plate issued under this section. The Secretary of State  
18 shall allow the owner of an antique motor vehicle to use a  
registration plates--which were plate that was issued in the same  
20 year the antique motor vehicle was manufactured, provided that  
the motor vehicle is over 25 years old and registered as an  
22 antique motor vehicle under this section. Any antique motor  
vehicle, including any antique auto or horseless carriage,  
24 bearing a registration plates plate with the year of manufacture  
shall must also carry within it a valid antique motor vehicle  
26 registration certificate and the antique motor vehicle  
registration plates plate matching the certificate. The  
28 registration plates--shall have matching plate numbers,-- shall  
plate must be affixed to both the front and rear of the antique  
30 motor vehicle and shall must conspicuously bear the year of  
manufacture. The fee for registration of an antique auto,  
32 horseless carriage or antique motorcycle shall--be is \$12. The  
fee for registration of a street rod shall--be is \$27.

34 **Sec. 11. 29 MRSA §117**, as enacted by PL 1967, c. 41, is  
36 amended to read:

38 **§117. Registration for members of Armed Forces returning  
from overseas duty**

40 The provisions of this Title relative to the registration of  
42 motor vehicles and the display of a number plates--shall plate  
does not apply to motor vehicles having registrations and  
44 displaying plates issued by the Armed Forces of the United States  
in foreign countries for vehicles owned by military or naval  
46 personnel, but said the exemption shall--be is valid only for a  
period of 45 days after the owner thereof of the plate has  
48 returned to the United States.

50 **Sec. 12. 29 MRSA §152, first ¶**, as amended by PL 1981, c. 437,  
§2, is further amended to read:

2           Whoever transfers the ownership or discontinues the use of a  
3 registered motor vehicle, trailer or semitrailer and applies to  
4 the Secretary of State for registration of another motor vehicle,  
5 trailer or semitrailer in the same registration year shall ~~be~~ is  
6 entitled to a certificate of registration permitting the use of a  
7 number ~~plates~~ plate of the proper class of registration ~~thereon~~  
8 upon payment of a transfer fee of \$8, provided the fee is the  
9 same as that of the former vehicle. If the fee for the vehicle to  
10 be registered is greater, he a person shall pay in addition to  
11 the transfer fee of \$8 the difference between the fee paid ~~by him~~  
12 for the vehicle first registered and the fee for the vehicle to  
13 which the transfer is to be made. If application is made for a  
14 trailer with a gross weight of 2,000 pounds or less, the transfer  
15 fee ~~shall be~~ is \$5. The certificate issued for the registration  
16 of the former vehicle shall ~~be~~ must be returned to the said  
17 Secretary of State, showing that the ownership of such the  
18 vehicle has been transferred or its use discontinued and that the  
19 registration has been canceled.

20           **Sec. 13. 29 MRSA §154**, as amended by PL 1977, c. 481, §5-B,  
21 is further amended to read:

22           **§154. Unused plate**

23           The owner, or the surviving spouse, who returns a number  
24 ~~plates~~ plate with an affidavit that ~~they have~~ it has never been  
25 used and when the Secretary of State is satisfied that the  
26 number ~~plates have~~ plate has never been used, ~~shall be refunded~~  
27 is entitled to a refund of the registration fee paid if such  
28 ~~plates are~~ the plate is returned within 120 days of the date of  
29 purchase.

30           **Sec. 14. 29 MRSA §191, sub-§1**, as amended by PL 1987, c. 31,  
31 is further amended to read:

32           **1. Plate issue year.** The Secretary of State shall reserve  
33 until July 1st the same registration number for the succeeding  
34 registration year for persons who notify the Secretary of State  
35 prior to May 1st in writing of their desire to retain their  
36 registration number. The fee for retention of the same  
37 registration number is \$5.

38           If a person wishes to retain his a registration number and does  
39 not have a vehicle to register on July 1st, he that person may  
40 hold his the registration number for a maximum of 2 registration  
41 years by depositing with the Secretary of State the sum of \$10  
42 for each year. These fees are not refundable and shall may not be  
43 applied as part payment of the registration fee.

44           All numbers other than those reserved shall ~~be~~ are released and  
45 issued in rotation after July 1st, except that a person wishing

2 to select a number out of rotation may do so by paying his the  
registration fee and a reserved number fee of \$5.

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

6 **Sec. 15. 29 MRSA §192**, as amended by PL 1987, c. 415, §§4 and  
8 5, is further amended to read:

10 **§192. Initial plate**

12 The Secretary of State ~~is authorized to~~ may design and ~~to~~  
14 issue, under ~~such regulations as he shall deem~~ rules determined  
appropriate, an initial type registration plates plate or  
16 combination of initials and numeric type registration plates  
plate to be used on passenger motor vehicles or motor vehicles of  
18 the station wagon type or pickup trucks or motorcycles or motor  
homes or trailers not to exceed 2,000 pounds, whether  
semitrailers or 4-wheeled type or camp trailers, as defined in  
20 section 1, subsection 1-G, in lieu of ~~either~~ another numeric type  
registration plates plate. ~~Such plates shall~~ A plate must be of  
22 such design and shall must bear such letters or letters and  
numbers as the Secretary of State shall ~~prescribe~~ prescribes, but  
24 there shall must be no duplication of identification.

26 The Secretary of State shall may not issue a duplicate  
vanity plates plate for trailers unless the registrant has  
28 already been issued an identical vanity plate for a passenger  
vehicle. The service fee for each vanity plate ~~which is to be~~  
30 placed on trailers is \$15 annually.

32 The registration plates ~~so~~ plate provided shall must be  
issued only upon application ~~therefor~~, and upon payment of an  
34 annual service fee of \$15. The service fee is ~~to be~~ in addition  
to the regular motor vehicle registration fee as prescribed by  
36 law for the particular vehicle. The amount received for ~~such~~ the  
service fee shall must be credited to the General Highway Fund  
38 and ~~there shall~~ a sufficient sum must be allocated annually from  
the General Highway Fund ~~a sum sufficient~~ to defray the cost of  
40 this program.

42 Applications for registration plates, as prescribed above in  
this section, pertaining to owners of passenger vehicles or motor  
44 vehicles of the station wagon type or pickup trucks or  
motorcycles or motor homes who are residents of this State and  
46 who own an unrevoked and unexpired official amateur radio station  
license issued by the Federal Communications Commission, except  
48 those licensed as novices by the Federal Communications  
Commission, shall must be accompanied by a notarized proof of  
50 ownership of ~~such~~ an amateur radio station license. Registration  
plates A registration plate issued under this paragraph shall  
52 must be inscribed with the official amateur radio call letters of



2 such the applicant as assigned by the Federal Communications  
Commission.

4 Application for a new registration plates ~~shall~~ plate must  
6 be received in the office of the Secretary of State. The  
Secretary of State may issue a facsimile plate for a 15-day  
8 semipermanent plate. The facsimile plate shall must be attached  
to the rear plate bracket.

10 **Sec. 16. 29 MRSA §193**, as amended by PL 1985, c. 51, is  
12 further amended to read:

14 **§193. State officials**

16 The Secretary of State shall, upon payment of the fees  
18 required in sections 109 and 242, subsection 1, paragraph A and  
application ~~therefor~~, for a plate by Maine Members of the United  
20 States Senate, Maine Members of the United States House of  
Representatives, Members of the Legislature, Representatives of  
22 the Indian Tribes at the Legislature, President of the Senate,  
Speaker of the House of Representatives, Secretary of the Senate  
and Clerk of the House, issue one ~~pair of~~ specially designed  
24 number plates plate for one designated motor vehicle owned or  
controlled by each of the officials named. Upon request by a  
26 Maine Member of the United States Senate or by a Maine Member of  
the United States House of Representatives, the Secretary of  
28 State shall issue an additional ~~pair of~~ specially designed number  
plates plate for a 2nd designated motor vehicle owned or  
30 controlled by that member. Such The specially designed plates  
plate and ~~their~~ the accompanying registration certificate shall  
32 must be issued to, and used by, the named officials in lieu of  
the regular plates plate and registration provided for in section  
34 110 at the option of the named officials. If any of the named  
officials ~~shall choose to apply~~ applies for a motor vehicle  
36 registration and plates plate as prescribed in section 110, and  
also request requests, in addition to the regular registration  
38 and plates plate, that he ~~or she~~ the official be issued an  
additional set ~~of~~ specially designed plates plate together with  
40 ~~their~~ the accompanying certificates certificate of registration,  
the Secretary of State shall upon receipt of application and the  
42 payment of a fee of \$2 issue such a special plates plate and  
registration certificate for such a motor vehicle that is  
44 currently registered and assigned a regular registration plates  
plate. Any specially designed number plates plate issued to any  
46 of the named officials shall be is valid only during the term of  
office for which the registrant is elected. In case the office is  
48 for any cause vacated during said a term, such the special number  
plates plate and registration certificate shall must be  
50 immediately surrendered to the Secretary of State.

2 The color, shape, size, lettering and numbering of the  
3 special ~~plates~~ plate must be determined by the Secretary of  
4 State, except the ~~plates~~ plate issued to Members of the House of  
5 Representatives, other than the Speaker of the House of  
6 Representatives, shall must bear the number of the House District  
7 represented by each member, and except the ~~plates~~ plate issued to  
8 the Members of the Senate, except the President of the Senate,  
9 shall must bear the number of the Senatorial District which the  
10 respective Senators represent.

11 **Sec. 17. 29 MRSA §246, 9th ¶**, as repealed and replaced by PL  
12 1983, c. 94, Pt. B, §9, is amended to read:

13 The Secretary of State shall issue a registration ~~plates~~  
14 plate so designed that a farm motor truck registered under this  
15 section may be distinguished from commercial vehicles otherwise  
16 registered under this section. Farm motor trucks shall must be  
17 driven with that registration only if the vehicle is used  
18 primarily for the transportation of agricultural products  
19 produced on and meant to be used in connection with the operating  
20 of a farm or farms owned, operated or occupied by the registrant  
21 and shall may not be used for the transportation of firewood,  
22 unless that transportation is incidental to other farm  
23 operations. Trucks used for the retail delivery of milk or used  
24 on a substantially daily delivery schedule on established routes  
25 are not included as "farm trucks." Any person fraudulently  
26 obtaining a farm truck license or using a truck with a license  
27 plate marked for any purposes other than those authorized by this  
28 section shall must be fined not less than \$100 nor more than \$500.

29 **Sec. 18. 29 MRSA §251, last ¶**, as amended by PL 1989, c. 509,  
30 §1, is further amended to read:

31 Any veteran who has lost both legs or the use of both legs  
32 and who has registered a motor vehicle without the payment of a  
33 fee as provided in this section upon certification by the  
34 Veterans Administration or appropriate branch of the United  
35 States Armed Forces shall must be issued a special designating  
36 ~~plates~~ plate. These The designating ~~plates~~ shall plate must be  
37 issued by the Secretary of State and shall must bear the words  
38 "Disabled-Veteran" + "Disabled Veteran."

39 **Sec. 19. 29 MRSA §252, first ¶**, as amended by PL 1989, c. 481,  
40 Pt. A, §9, is further amended to read:

41 On application to the Secretary of State, any handicapped  
42 person or the spouse, parents or legal guardian of a handicapped  
43 person who has registered a motor vehicle as the motor vehicle of  
44 principal use by the handicapped person shall must be issued a  
45 ~~set of~~ special designating ~~plates~~ plate to be used in place of  
46 the regular registration ~~plates~~ plate. A permanent placard may be  
47 issued under this section and shall must be so affixed that the  
48

2 information on the placard shall ~~be~~ is clearly legible from the  
3 outside of the ~~the~~ motor vehicle. The placard shall ~~shall~~ must contain  
4 the name of the handicapped person. The Secretary of State shall  
5 establish by regulation a system of color coding for placards  
6 issued pursuant to this section for the purpose of facilitating  
7 the determination of validity of placards. When the Secretary of  
8 State ~~deems~~ determines it appropriate, a placard may be issued to  
9 any handicapped person who does not have a duly registered motor  
10 vehicle. In such cases, the placard may be displayed on any motor  
11 vehicle properly registered in this State, but it may ~~only~~ only be ~~se~~  
12 displayed only during the time when the handicapped person is a  
13 passenger in the vehicle, when the driver of the vehicle is  
14 transporting the handicapped person or when the driver is waiting  
15 for a service to be rendered to the handicapped person. The  
16 annual registration fee is as set forth in this subchapter for  
17 the type of vehicle assigned the special designating ~~plates~~ plate  
18 or placard. A \$1 fee shall be charged for each placard issued.

19 **Sec. 20. 29 MRSA §252, 5th ¶**, as amended by PL 1987, c. 298,  
20 §2, is further amended to read:

21 Any person other than a handicapped person or the spouse of  
22 a handicapped person issued a ~~set of~~ special designating ~~plates~~  
23 plate or placard under this section shall ~~be~~ is subject to a \$100  
24 fine for use of the special designating ~~plates~~ plate or placard.  
25 The special designating ~~plates~~ plate or placard shall must be  
26 suspended if improper use is permitted.

27 **Sec. 21. 29 MRSA §252, last ¶**, as repealed and replaced by PL  
28 1987, c. 298, §3, is amended to read:

29 ~~These~~ The special designating ~~plates~~ plate ~~shall~~ must bear  
30 the International Handicap Symbol.

31 **Sec. 22. 29 MRSA §252-A**, as repealed and replaced by PL 1989,  
32 c. 878, Pt. A, §80, is amended to read:

33 **§252-A. Disabled veterans; special free license plate**

34 The Secretary of State on application and upon evidence of  
35 payment of the excise tax required by Title 36, section 1482,  
36 shall issue a registration certificate and ~~set of~~ a special  
37 designating ~~plates~~ plate to be used in lieu of a regular  
38 registration ~~plates~~ plate to any 100% disabled veteran when that  
39 application is accompanied by certification from the United  
40 States Veterans Administration or any branch of the United States  
41 Armed Forces as to the veteran's disability and receipt of 100%  
42 service-connected benefits and that the veteran is permanently  
43 confined to a wheelchair or restricted to the use of crutches or  
44 braces or otherwise handicapped in such a way that mobility is  
45 seriously restricted. A handicap placard shall must be issued in  
46

2 addition to the disabled veteran registration plate and upon  
payment of a \$1 fee.

4 These ~~The~~ special designating plates--shall plate must bear  
6 the letters VET which indicate that the vehicle is owned by a  
disabled veteran.

8 **Sec. 23. 29 MRSA §252-B**, as enacted by PL 1981, c. 89, §3, is  
amended to read:

10 **§252-B. United States Medal of Honor recipients; special**  
12 **license plate**

14 The Secretary of State, on application and upon evidence of  
16 payment of the excise tax required by Title 36, section 1482,  
shall issue a registration certificate and ~~set--of a~~ special  
18 designating plates plate, to be used in lieu of a regular  
20 registration plates plate, to any Maine resident who has been  
awarded the Medal of Honor by the Congress of the United States  
when the application is accompanied by a copy of the military  
orders awarding the Medal of Honor.

22 These ~~The~~ special designating plates--shall plate must be of  
24 a design as determined by the Secretary of State.

26 **Sec. 24. 29 MRSA §252-D**, as enacted by PL 1985, c. 737, Pt.  
A, §80, is amended to read:

28 **§252-D. Firefighters; special license plate**

30 On the application of an active firefighter whose active  
32 status is certified to by the fire chief, assistant fire chief or  
acting fire chief of the fire department of the active  
34 firefighter, the Secretary of State shall issue a special  
36 registration plate designating the vehicle as belonging to an  
active firefighter. The Secretary of State may design this  
38 special registration plate which shall must be numerical with the  
letters "F F" as a suffix. The special registration plate for  
40 firefighters may be used only on only one motor vehicle which ,  
the registered gross weight shall of which must not exceed 9,000  
pounds.

42 An additional one-time fee of \$5 shall be charged for a  
44 plate under this section, other than the annual registration fee.

46 If a firefighter ceases to be an active firefighter, the  
48 fire chief shall notify the Secretary of State, who shall recall  
the license plate.

50 **Sec. 25. 29 MRSA §252-E**, as amended by PL 1989, c. 481, Pt.  
A, §10, is further amended to read:

52

2 **§252-E. Former prisoners of war; special license plate**

3 The Secretary of State, on application and upon evidence of  
4 payment of the excise tax required by Title 36, section 1482,  
5 shall issue a registration certificate and ~~set--of~~ a special  
6 designating plates plate to be used in lieu of a regular  
7 registration plates plate to any person who served in the United  
8 States Armed Forces and who was a prisoner of war at any time  
9 during tenure of service, or the surviving spouse of a former  
10 prisoner of war who is deceased, when that application is  
11 accompanied by a copy of the appropriate military form certifying  
12 that the person is a former prisoner of war. This special license  
13 plate is issued specifically to former prisoners of war and their  
14 spouses and the privilege of using the special plate is  
15 transferable, only on the death of the former prisoner of war, to  
16 the former prisoner's spouse. Upon the death of the former  
17 prisoner of war, the surviving spouse may retain and display the  
18 special license plate. Upon remarriage, the surviving spouse may  
19 not use the special license plate on a motor vehicle, but may  
20 retain it as a keepsake. Upon the death of the surviving spouse,  
21 the family may retain the special license plate, but not use it  
22 on a motor vehicle.

23 These The special designating plates ~~shall~~ plate must be of  
24 a design as determined by the Secretary of State, that is unique  
25 and not duplicated by any other design.

26  
27 **Sec. 26. 29 MRSA §252-G**, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 789, §15,  
28 is amended to read:

29 **§252-G. Pearl Harbor survivors; special license plate**

30  
31  
32 The Secretary of State, on application and upon evidence of  
33 payment of the excise tax required by Title 36, section 1482,  
34 shall issue a registration certificate and ~~set--of~~ a special  
35 designating plates plate to be used in lieu of a regular  
36 registration plates plate to any person who served in the United  
37 States Armed Forces and who was stationed at Pearl Harbor, Oahu,  
38 Hawaii during the attack by Japanese forces on December 7, 1941,  
39 when that application is accompanied by appropriate military  
40 certification verifying the applicant's service at Pearl Harbor  
41 during the attack. This special license plate is issued  
42 specifically to Pearl Harbor survivors and the privilege of using  
43 the special plate is not transferable.

44  
45 These The special designating plates ~~shall~~ plate must be of  
46 a design as determined by the Secretary of State.

47  
48 **Sec. 27. 29 MRSA §256, sub-§2**, as amended by PL 1989, c. 855,  
49 is further amended to read:  
50

2           **2. Municipal vehicles.** All county, municipal, school and  
3 water district vehicles shall must be registered with the  
4 Secretary of State who shall furnish a semipermanent plates plate  
5 for each vehicle which shall ~~expire~~ expires at the end of each  
6 10-year semipermanent plate program. The vehicles shall ~~be~~ are  
7 exempt from this Title as to payment of registration fees, but  
8 shall are not be exempt from the inspection requirements of  
9 section 2502. The plate ~~or plates~~ shall must be of a design  
10 determined by the Secretary of State.

11  
12 Municipal vehicles used by full-time law enforcement departments  
13 may be issued a special police plates plate at the request of the  
14 chief law enforcement official of that municipality. The plates  
15 plate may ~~only~~ be attached only to municipally owned vehicles.

16 A municipal fire department or an organized volunteer fire  
17 department may be exempt from this Title as to registration and  
18 payment of registration fees, but shall may not be exempt from  
19 the inspection requirements of section 2502.

20  
21 All vehicles owned or used by any municipal corporation and all  
22 vehicles loaned by automobile dealers to municipalities for law  
23 enforcement agencies to use for educational purposes, or for use  
24 in driver education in secondary schools, and all motor vehicles  
25 loaned by automobile dealers to private secondary schools for use  
26 in driver education in the schools, vehicles loaned to state  
27 universities used in organized programs and all motor vehicles  
28 used in volunteer ambulance and rescue squad services in such  
29 municipalities shall must be registered, but shall ~~be~~ are exempt  
30 from this Title as to the registration fees, except that when the  
31 vehicles are leased or rented for commercial purposes they shall  
32 be are subject to payment of fees as provided in this Title. All  
33 such these vehicles shall must display a registration plates  
34 plate as required by this Title or approved by the Secretary of  
35 State.

36           **Sec. 28. 29 MRSA §256, sub-§3,** as enacted by PL 1977, c. 142,  
37 is amended to read:

38  
39           **3. Federal Government vehicles.** Vehicles legally owned by  
40 the Federal Government which that are used by persons in this  
41 State under lease with right of purchase agreement or otherwise  
42 shall must be registered.

43  
44 The Secretary of State ~~is authorized to~~ may issue registration  
45 certificates and a registration plates plate without fee to  
46 federal and other governmental agencies, not otherwise required  
47 to be registered under this Title.

48  
49           **Sec. 29. 29 MRSA §256, sub-§4,** as amended by PL 1985, c. 779,  
50 §75, is further amended to read:

51  
52

2 4. **University of Maine System vehicles.** The Secretary of  
State ~~is--authorized--to~~ may register vehicles owned by the  
4 University of Maine System without the payment of registration  
fees prescribed by this Title. Such ~~These~~ vehicles shall must  
6 display a registration plates plate of a design determined by the  
Secretary of State.

8 **Sec. 30. 29 MRSA §256, sub-§5,** as enacted by PL 1987, c. 415,  
§9, is amended to read:

10 **5. School buses.** All school buses shall must be registered  
12 with the Secretary of State, who shall furnish a semipermanent  
plates plate for each vehicle, which shall ~~expire~~ expires at the  
14 end of the 10-year semipermanent plate program. The term "school  
bus" shall ~~have~~ has the same meaning as in section 2011. School  
16 buses that are publicly owned or operated under a lease of 30  
days or more by a municipality or a school administrative  
18 district shall ~~be~~ are exempt from the requirements for payment of  
registration fees. The Secretary of State shall determine plate  
20 design.

22 **Sec. 31. 29 MRSA §381,** as amended by PL 1987, c. 64, §2, is  
further amended to read:

24 **§381. Manner of display**

26 Each number plate displayed shall must be horizontal. ~~Not~~ No  
28 more than one set ~~of~~ number plates ~~shall~~ plate may be displayed  
upon any vehicle, except as may be otherwise permitted by law.

30 Farm trucks, or any vehicle used for hauling forest products  
32 and required by law to be registered, may attach the number plate  
by means of a rigid or ~~semi-rigid~~ semirigid bracket designed se  
34 as to allow the plate to swing freely.

36 Unless otherwise provided by law, with respect to all motor  
vehicles, a registration plate shall must be attached ~~to the~~  
38 ~~front and a registration plate shall be~~ attached to the rear of  
each vehicle. The registration plates plate, including the  
40 numbers, letters and words as defined in section 110, shall must  
always be plainly visible. With respect to trailers and  
42 semitrailers, a registration plate with numbers, letters and  
words as defined in section 110, shall must be attached to the  
44 rear and shall must be always plainly visible. All A  
46 registration plates ~~shall~~ plate must be maintained reasonably  
clean and the numbers, letters and words shall must be legible.

48 ~~In the case of a motorcycle or motor driven cycle, no~~ A  
number plate shall may not be attached to the front of said a  
50 motorcycle or motor driven cycle.

2 A manufacturer, dealer or transporter registration plate  
shall must be attached to the rear of the vehicle and shall must  
4 be plainly visible from the rear.

6 **Sec. 32. 29 MRSA §382**, as amended by PL 1977, c. 481, §14, is  
further amended to read:

8 **§382. Loss of number plate**

10 If any a number plate is lost or the register number thereon  
12 on the plate becomes mutilated or illegible, the owner or person  
in control of the vehicle for which the number plate was  
14 furnished shall immediately place a temporary number plate  
bearing his the register number upon the vehicle with the  
exception of dealers and transporters as found in subchapter  
16 III-A. Such a temporary number plate shall must conform to the  
register number plate and shall must be displayed as nearly as  
18 possible as provided in this Title for said the regular number  
plate, and such a person shall within 24 hours after such the  
20 loss or mutilation give notice thereof of the loss or mutilation  
to the Secretary of State and apply for a new number plates  
22 plate. Thereupon ~~the~~ The Secretary of State, if satisfied of the  
truth of the facts stated in the application, shall supply a new  
24 number plates plate upon payment of a fee of \$5 for each plate.

26 If the Secretary of State is unable to furnish immediately  
~~to any person entitled thereto~~ any plate or marker provided in  
28 this Title, he the Secretary of State may issue a temporary  
certificate with a temporary number plates plate, which  
30 certificate shall must be carried and ~~said plates shall~~ the plate  
must be displayed upon said the vehicle in the same manner as  
32 required for a regular certificates certificate and number plates  
plate. ~~Whenever one of a set of number plates is lost and a new~~  
34 ~~set is issued, the remaining plate shall forthwith be returned to~~  
~~the Secretary of State. In case plates are~~ When a plate is lost  
36 in transportation, and the applicant shall ~~certify~~ certifies in  
the affidavit that the plates have plate has not been received by  
38 him and agrees that if they shall be the plate is received at  
some later date to return them ~~forthwith~~ the plate, the Secretary  
40 of State, after a thorough investigation, may furnish the  
applicant with a ~~second set of plates~~ 2nd plate without  
42 additional charge.

44 **Sec. 33. 29 MRSA §434, sub-§§6 and 8** are amended to read:

46 **6. Issuance of identification.** Upon registration of a  
fleet, the state which that is the base state of a particular bus  
48 of the fleet shall issue the required license plate or plates and  
registration card for such that bus, and each contracting state  
50 in which the fleet of which such that bus is a part, operates  
shall issue a special identification ~~identifying such of the~~ bus  
52 as a part of a fleet which that has fully complied with the



2 registration requirements of such that state. The required  
license plate or plates, registration cards and identification  
4 shall must be appropriately displayed in the manner required by  
or pursuant to the laws of each respective state.

6 8. **Withdrawals from fleet.** If any bus is withdrawn from a  
prorated fleet during the period for which it is registered or  
8 identified, the owner shall notify the administrator of each  
state in which it is registered or identified of such the  
10 withdrawal and shall return the plate or plates, and registration  
card or identification as may be required by or pursuant to the  
12 laws of the respective states.

14 **Sec. 34. 29 MRSA §780, sub-§6**, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 341,  
§3 and affected by §7, is amended to read:

16 6. **Suspension.** Thirty days following the receipt of an  
18 abstract from the court of an adjudication of a violation of this  
section, the Secretary of State shall suspend, in accordance with  
20 chapter 17, the license; the right to operate and obtain a  
license of any person operating a motor vehicle; the registration  
22 certificate and registration plates plate; and the right to  
register of any person owning a motor vehicle, trailer or  
24 semitrailer until that person provides evidence of insurance in  
accordance with section 781, paragraph A-1, and in the amounts  
26 required in this subchapter. Any person who is convicted of a  
violation of this section 2 or more times within a 3-year period  
28 shall be subject to the proof of financial responsibility  
requirements as provided in section 787.

30 **Sec. 35. 29 MRSA §782, sub-§1**, as amended by PL 1983, c. 809,  
32 §1, is further amended to read:

34 1. **Suspension of licenses.** Upon receipt of an abstract of  
the record in cases of conviction or adjudication of any person  
36 for a violation of any state law relative to motor vehicles, the  
Secretary of State, ~~in his discretion,~~ may ~~forthwith~~  
38 immediately, pursuant and ~~subject~~ to chapter 17, suspend the  
license of the person so convicted or adjudicated and the  
40 registration ~~certificates~~ certificate and registration plates  
plate issued for any motor vehicle, trailer or semitrailer  
42 registered in the name of such that person unless and until such  
that person gives and thereafter maintains for a period of 3  
44 years proof of his financial responsibility in the limits of  
\$20,000 each individual, \$40,000 any one accident resulting in  
46 injury or death to one or more persons and \$10,000 for damage to  
property of others. Upon receipt of an attested copy of the  
48 court record of a conviction or adjudication under section  
1312-B, 1312-C or Title 15, section 3103, subsection 1, paragraph  
50 F, when the person has been previously convicted within a 6-year  
period of violating any of these provisions or subsection 10 of  
52 former section 1312, the Secretary of State shall may not

2 reinstate the person's license, right to operate a motor vehicle  
3 or right to apply for or obtain a license until the person gives  
4 and thereafter maintains for a period of 3-years 3 years proof of  
5 his financial responsibility in the limits provided in this  
6 subsection, provided that the period of suspension shall ~~in no~~  
7 ease must not be less than the original period of suspension  
8 imposed for the conviction or adjudication. The Secretary of  
9 State shall take action as required in this section upon  
10 receiving proper evidence of any such conviction or adjudication  
11 of any person in another state. The Secretary of State may waive  
12 the requirement of filing proof of financial responsibility at  
13 any time after 3 years from the date of request for compliance.

14 **Sec. 36. 29 MRSA §783, sub-§2**, as amended by PL 1987, c. 46,  
15 §2, is further amended to read:

16 **2. Security and proof of financial responsibility required**  
17 **following accident.**

20 A. Upon receipt by the Secretary of State of the report of  
21 an accident on a public way, or in any place where public  
22 traffic may reasonably be anticipated, which has resulted in  
23 death, bodily injury or property damage to an apparent  
24 extent of \$500 or more, the Secretary of State, pursuant and  
25 subject to chapter 17, shall, 30 days following the date of  
26 request for compliance with the following requirement,  
27 suspend the license, the right to obtain a license, or the  
28 right to operate of any person operating, and the  
29 registration certificates and registration plates or the  
30 right to register of any person owning a motor vehicle,  
31 trailer or semitrailer in any manner involved in the  
32 accident, unless the operator and owner shall immediately  
33 give and maintain proof of financial responsibility as  
34 provided under section 787, subsection 2. The Secretary of  
35 State may waive the requirement of filing proof of financial  
36 responsibility at any time after 3 years from the date of  
37 request for compliance, provided no further filing is  
38 required under section 782, subsection 1.

40 B. Upon receipt of notice from the Secretary of State which  
41 that contains information that an automobile liability  
42 policy was carried at the time of the accident, or that the  
43 liability of the owner or operator for damages resulting  
44 from the accident was covered by any other form of insurance  
45 or bond, the insurance carrier shall within 15 days notify  
46 the Secretary of State in such the manner as ~~he may require~~  
47 required in case such that policy or bond was not in effect  
48 at the time of such the accident. Where erroneous  
49 information with respect to the existence of insurance or  
50 other exceptions specified in this section is furnished to  
51 the Secretary of State, he the Secretary of State shall take  
52 appropriate action after the receipt by ~~him~~ of correct

2 information with respect to such coverage or other  
3 exceptions.

4 C. Any person whose operator's license or registration  
5 certificates and registration plates have been suspended and  
6 have not been reinstated shall immediately return every such  
7 license, registration ~~certificates~~ certificate and  
8 registration plates plate to the Secretary of State. Any  
9 person, who, after notice of such a suspension, fails or  
10 refuses to return every such license, registration  
11 certificate and registration plate to the Secretary of  
12 State, ~~shall-be~~ is guilty of a misdemeanor.

14 D. Pursuant to chapter 17, the Secretary of State, upon any  
15 reasonable ground appearing on the records in his the  
16 Secretary of State's office, may suspend or revoke the  
17 operator's license of any person and may suspend or revoke  
18 any and all of the registration certificates and  
19 registration plates for any motor vehicle and may refuse to  
20 issue to ~~any-such~~ that person any license or to register in  
21 the name of ~~such~~ that person any motor vehicle unless and  
22 until such the person gives proof of his financial  
23 responsibility for such a period as the Secretary of State  
24 may require.

26 E.

28 F. Upon receipt by the Secretary of State of a copy of any  
29 judgment ~~which-has-been~~ rendered against either the owner or  
30 the operator of the motor vehicle involved in the accident,  
31 which judgment resulted from a cause of action that arose  
32 from that accident, the Secretary of State shall, pursuant  
33 to chapter 17, immediately suspend the license, the right to  
34 obtain a license, or the right to operate of any person  
35 operating who has thus become a judgment debtor, and the  
36 registration certificates and plates or the right to  
37 register any vehicle of any person owning a motor vehicle,  
38 trailer or semitrailer involved in the accident who has thus  
39 become a judgment debtor, unless the judgment is completely  
40 satisfied or until the judgment debtor or debtors ~~shall~~ have  
41 secured a written release, in the form required by the  
42 Secretary of the State, from the judgment creditors.

44 **Sec. 37. 29 MRSA §785, sub-§3,** as repealed and replaced by PL  
45 1979, c. 430, §9, is amended to read:

46 **3. Accidents in other states.** Upon receipt of the  
47 certification that the operating privilege of a resident of this  
48 State has been suspended or revoked in any such other state  
49 pursuant to a law providing for its suspension or revocation for  
50 failure to provide proof of financial responsibility, under  
51 circumstances which that require the Secretary of State to  
52

2 suspend a nonresident's operating privilege had the accident  
occurred in this State, the Secretary of State may suspend the  
4 license of that resident and all registration certificates and  
registration plates. The suspension may continue until that  
6 resident furnishes evidence of his compliance with the law of the  
other state, and until that resident files proof of financial  
responsibility if required by that law.

8  
10 **Sec. 38. 29 MRSA §831, 2nd ¶**, as enacted by PL 1989, c. 866,  
Pt. A, §7 and affected by Pt. B, §26, is amended to read:

12 The owner or owners of any vehicle covered by this section  
shall maintain at all times the required ~~amounts~~ amount of  
14 insurance or bond during the term of the vehicle's registration.  
The Secretary of State shall immediately suspend or revoke,  
16 pursuant to chapter 17, the registration certificate and  
registration plates plate of any vehicle for which the insurance  
18 or bond in the ~~amounts~~ amount required is not maintained. Any  
person whose registration certificate and registration plates  
20 plate have been suspended or revoked pursuant to this section  
shall immediately return that registration certificate and the  
22 registration plates plate to the Secretary of State. Any person  
who fails or refuses to return the registration certificate or  
24 registration plates plate to the Secretary of State is guilty of  
a Class E crime.

26  
28 **Sec. 39. 29 MRSA §831-A, 2nd ¶**, as enacted by PL 1989, c. 866,  
Pt. A, §8 and affected by Pt. B, §26, is amended to read:

30 The owner or owners of any vehicle covered by this section  
shall maintain at all times the required ~~amounts~~ amount of  
32 insurance or bond during the term of the vehicle's registration.  
The Secretary of State shall immediately suspend or revoke,  
34 pursuant to chapter 17, the registration certificate and  
registration plates plate of any vehicle for which the insurance  
36 or bond in the ~~amounts~~ amount required is not maintained. Any  
person whose registration certificate and registration plates  
38 plate have been suspended or revoked pursuant to this section  
shall immediately return that registration certificate and the  
40 registration plates plate to the Secretary of State. Any person  
who fails or refuses to return the registration certificate or  
42 registration plates plate to the Secretary of State is guilty of  
a Class E crime.

44  
46 **Sec. 40. 29 MRSA §1367-B, sub-§4, ¶A**, as amended by PL 1989,  
c. 700, Pt. A, §122, is further amended to read:

48 A. Lights used on ambulances; fire department vehicles;  
vehicles operated by city and town fire inspectors; forestry  
50 department vehicles used for forest fire control purposes;  
and by vehicles operated by chiefs and chief officers, such  
52 as assistant chiefs, deputy chiefs and district chiefs of

2 fire departments, shall must emit a red beam of light or a  
3 combination of red and white lights. When authorized by the  
4 municipal officers of a municipality and countersigned by  
5 the fire chief, a red blinker or flashing red signal light  
6 not more than 5 inches in diameter ~~may be mounted as near as~~  
7 ~~practicable above the registration plate on the front of a~~  
8 ~~motor vehicle, or~~ mounted on the dashboard so that the light  
9 will be shielded from the driver so as not to interfere with  
10 his the driver's vision, while operated by a member of a  
11 municipal or volunteer fire department. The light may be  
12 displayed, but shall must not be in operation, except while  
13 the vehicle is in use for fire or other emergency service.  
14 No A volunteer or municipal firefighter may not operate a  
15 red blinker or flashing red signal light upon a motor  
16 vehicle, except while actually enroute to the scene of a  
17 fire or other emergency requiring services and unless the  
18 operator is an active member of the department. Nothing in  
19 this subsection may limit the use of lights showing a red  
20 beam of light to the front or rear of school buses, ~~provided~~  
21 if those lights are of a type approved by the Commissioner  
22 of Education under section 2012; nor may any designation or  
23 authorization by the Commissioner of Public Safety be  
24 required for the use of emergency lights authorized under  
25 this section.

26 **Sec. 41. 29 MRSA §1463** is amended to read:

27 **§1463. Signal lights for doctors authorized**

28 An amber blinker or flashing amber signal light, not more  
29 than 5 inches in diameter, may be mounted as near as practicable  
30 above the ~~registration plate~~ bumper on the front of a motor  
31 vehicle operated by any physician or surgeon licensed to practice  
32 in this State. ~~Sueh~~ The light may be displayed but shall must  
33 not be in operation except while ~~sueh~~ the vehicle is in use  
34 during emergencies. No A physician or surgeon shall may not  
35 operate an amber blinker or flashing amber signal light upon ~~sueh~~  
36 a motor vehicle except while actually enroute to the scene of an  
37 emergency requiring his professional services.

38 **Sec. 42. 29 MRSA §1654-B, sub-§2**, as enacted by PL 1989, c.  
39 528, §7, is amended to read:

40 **2. Suspension for repeat offenders.** ~~In the event that~~ If  
41 the record maintained by the Secretary of State pursuant to  
42 subsection 1 shows a vehicle to have been operated in violation  
43 of section 1654-A 3 or more times during a 12-month period, then  
44 the Secretary of State shall suspend, without preliminary  
45 hearing, the registration plates plate and certificate,  
46 applicable to the vehicle or, for an out-of-state vehicle, the  
47 right to operate in this State. For the purposes of this  
48 section, a vehicle is operated in violation of section 1654-A if  
49  
50  
51  
52

2 the operation results in an adjudication under that section. The  
3 term of suspension for the 3rd offense within a 12-month period  
4 shall-be is 30 days, and the term of suspension for the 4th and  
5 subsequent offenses within a 12-month period shall-be is 60 days.

6 **Sec. 43. 29 MRSA §2241-F**, as enacted by PL 1977, c. 481,  
7 §21-B, is amended to read:

8  
9 **§2241-F. Designees, agents, deputies of the Secretary**  
10 **of State**

11  
12 Upon request of the Secretary of State, notification of the  
13 suspension or revocation of any certificate of registration or  
14 any license issued to any person to operate a motor vehicle shall  
15 must be served, and any certificate of registration, any license  
16 issued to any person to operate a motor vehicle or any  
17 registration plates--shall plate must be confiscated or an  
18 investigation pursuant to the enforcement of this Title shall  
19 must be undertaken by the sheriff of the county in which such  
20 that person resides or by any of his the sheriff's deputies, by  
21 any state or local enforcement officer or by an employee of the  
22 Secretary of State.

23  
24 **Sec. 44. 29 MRSA §2241-H, first ¶**, as amended by PL 1989, c.  
25 872, §9, is further amended to read:

26  
27 In the case of any conviction or adjudication under former  
28 section 1312, subsection 10, section 1312-B, 1312-C, or 1314, or  
29 for any offense for which the suspension of a license or the  
30 right to operate a motor vehicle or the right to apply for or  
31 obtain a license is required by law, the court shall also suspend  
32 the defendant's right to register a motor vehicle and the  
33 registration certificate and plates plate issued by this State to  
34 the defendant for that motor vehicle, or in any case in which the  
35 court suspends a license under section 2305, the court may also  
36 suspend the defendant's right to register a motor vehicle and the  
37 registration certificate and plates plate issued by this State to  
38 the defendant for that motor vehicle, and the court shall inform  
39 the defendant of the suspensions and the defendant shall  
40 acknowledge this notice in writing on a form ~~to-be~~ provided by  
41 the court. The court, as part of its sentence, unless the  
42 defendant appeals and a stay of execution of the suspension is  
43 granted, shall take any license certificate issued by this State  
44 from the person convicted or adjudicated or any license  
45 certificate issued by another state, foreign country or province  
46 from the person convicted or adjudicated if that person is  
47 residing, domiciled or employed in this State. The court, as part  
48 of its sentence, unless the defendant appeals and a stay of  
49 execution of the suspension is granted, may take from the person  
50 convicted or adjudicated any license certificate issued by  
51 another state or foreign country or province if the person is not  
52 residing, domiciled or employed in this State. At sentencing,

2 the court, upon reasonable cause shown, may stay the suspensions  
4 for a period not to exceed 4 hours from the time of sentencing.  
6 The court may issue such evidence of that stay as it determines  
8 necessary. The court shall forward the license certificate, a  
10 copy of the sentence and the acknowledgment of notice by mail to  
12 the Secretary of State, and the court shall order the defendant  
14 to return the suspended registration certificate and plates plate  
16 to the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State shall return  
18 the certificate of registration and plates plate to the defendant  
20 when the defendant's license and operating and registration  
22 privileges have been restored.  
24

26 **Sec. 45. 29 MRSA §2241-H, 2nd ¶**, as enacted by PL 1989, c.  
28 872, §9, is amended to read:

30 Notwithstanding the court order suspending the defendant's  
32 right to register a motor vehicle, registration certificate and  
34 plates plate, the Secretary of State may restore only the  
36 registration certificate and plates plate for reissuance, without  
38 fee during the remaining term of the registration, to a spouse or  
40 other family member of the defendant upon receipt of an  
42 affidavit, on a form prescribed by the Secretary of State,  
44 authorizing the spouse or other family member to register the  
46 motor vehicle in the name of the spouse or other family member.

48 **Sec. 46. 29 MRSA §2241-I**, as amended by PL 1989, c. 872, §10,  
50 is further amended to read:

52 **§2241-I. Surrender of suspended license and  
registration certificate and plate to law  
enforcement officer**

54 In the event that a law enforcement officer, in the course  
56 of stopping or detaining a motor vehicle, obtains from the  
58 operator of the motor vehicle a State of Maine license or  
60 registration certificate, or a license issued by another state,  
62 foreign country or province when, according to records of the  
64 Secretary of State which that are available by  
66 telecommunications, that person's license, right to operate in  
68 this State or registration certificate is under suspension or  
70 revocation, the officer shall confiscate the suspended or revoked  
72 license, registration certificate or plates plate and shall  
74 transmit the confiscated items, together with a report stating  
76 the circumstances under which they were obtained, to the  
78 Secretary of State.

80 **Sec. 47. 29 MRSA §2378, sub-§3**, as amended by PL 1983, c. 818,  
82 §26, is further amended to read:

84 **3. Certificate mailed.** When the Secretary of State suspends  
86 or revokes a certificate of title, certificate of salvage or  
88 certificate of registration, the owner or person in possession of

2 it shall, immediately upon receiving notice of the suspension or  
4 revocation, mail or deliver the certificate of title, certificate  
6 of salvage or certificate of registration and registration plates  
8 plate to the Secretary of State. Failure to comply with the  
10 provisions of this section shall-constitute is a Class E Crime.

12 **Sec. 48. 29 MRSA §2378, sub-§4**, as amended by PL 1981, c. 110,  
14 §36, is further amended to read:

16 **4. Seizure.** The Secretary of State or ~~his~~ the Secretary of  
18 State's authorized agents may seize and impound any certificate  
20 of title, certificate of salvage or certificate of registration  
22 and registration plates-~~which~~ plate that have been suspended or  
24 revoked.

26 **Sec. 49. 29 MRSA §2402, sub-§4, ¶B**, as enacted by PL 1985, c.  
28 685, §7, is amended to read:

30 **B. Registration-plates** The registration plate issued by  
32 this State are is removed from the vehicle, the registration  
34 issued by this State is surrendered and the vehicle is  
36 reregistered in another jurisdiction.

38 **Sec. 50. 29 MRSA §2610, sub-§2**, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 598,  
40 §4, is amended to read:

42 **2. Owner and lien holder unknown.** If the owner of a  
44 vehicle described in subsection 1 is unknown, the owner of the  
46 premises or property where the vehicle is located shall inquire  
48 of the Secretary of State in writing whether the Secretary of  
50 State's records contain information as to the owner and  
52 lienholder, if any, of the vehicle. That inquiry shall must be  
made no later than 30 days after receipt of the vehicle and shall  
must include the vehicle's make, model, year, body type, vehicle  
identification number and any registration and plates plate on  
the vehicle. Upon receipt of the inquiry, the Secretary of State  
shall provide the holder of the vehicle with any information on  
record as to the name and address of the vehicle's owner and  
lienholder or shall state that no record of the vehicle is on  
file.

A. If the Secretary of State provides the name of the owner  
or lienholder, the holder of the vehicle shall comply with  
subsection 3.

B. If the Secretary of State finds no record of the  
vehicle, the owner of the premises or property where the  
vehicle was brought or abandoned shall publish, at least  
twice in a newspaper of general circulation in the county  
where the premises or property is located, a notice which  
shall that must clearly describe the vehicle and state that  
if the owner of the vehicle or lienholder has not properly



2 claimed it and paid all reasonable costs and charges for its  
towing and storage within 14 days from the date of last  
4 publication, ownership of the vehicle shall ~~pass~~ passes  
to the owner of the property or premises where the vehicle is  
6 located. The notice shall must clearly state how the owner  
of the premises or property may be contacted.

8 Removal of the vehicle or any part, accessory or personal  
item from the vehicle without the written consent of the  
10 owner or person in charge of the premises or property where  
the vehicle is located is a Class E crime.

12 Sec. 51. 30-A MRSA §3009, sub-§1, ¶C, as affected by PL 1989,  
14 c. 104, Pt. C, §§8 and 10, is amended to read:

16 C. The municipal officers may regulate the parking of motor  
vehicles on any public way or public parking area,  
18 including, but not limited to, providing for the  
installation of parking meters, ~~previding~~ if the fact that  
20 any vehicle is illegally parked or is in a metered space  
when the time signal on the parking meter for that space  
22 indicates no parking permitted without the deposit of a coin  
or coins is prima facie evidence that the vehicle has been  
24 parked illegally by the person in whose name the vehicle is  
registered, and establishing reasonable charges for metered  
26 parking.

28 (1) Illegal parking of a vehicle in violation of any  
ordinance authorized by this paragraph is a traffic  
30 infraction.

32 (2) The municipal officers may establish a method by  
which persons charged with the violation of parking  
34 regulations may waive all court action by payment of  
specified fees within stated periods of time.

36 (3) The revenue collected from parking meters shall  
38 must be used:

40 (a) To purchase, maintain and police the meters;

42 (b) To construct and maintain public ways;

44 (c) To acquire, construct, maintain and operate  
public parking areas; and

46 (d) For no other purpose.

48 (4) Any motor vehicle or motorcycle registered by a  
50 handicapped person is exempt from any parking meter  
fare when that vehicle properly displays a special  
52 designating plates plate or a placard issued under

2 Title 29, sections 252, 252-A and 252-C, and may park a  
length of time which that does not exceed twice the  
4 time limit otherwise applicable.

6 **Sec. 52. 36 MRSA §1955-A**, as repealed and replaced by PL  
1989, c. 878, Pt. A, §107, is amended to read:

8 **§1955-A. Failure to pay tax on vehicles**

10 If, after notice of assessment and demand for payment, any  
amount required to be paid for any vehicle is not paid as  
12 demanded within the 10-day period prescribed in section 171, the  
State Tax Assessor, in addition to enforcing collection by any  
14 method authorized by this Part or Part 1 ~~or--this--Part~~, may  
immediately notify the Secretary of State who shall proceed in  
16 accordance with Title 29, section 55-B, to mail the required  
5-day notice and suspend any registration certificate and ~~plates~~  
18 plate issued for the vehicle for which the tax remains unpaid at  
the expiration of the 5-day period.

20 **Sec. 53. 36 MRSA §1955-B**, as amended by PL 1989, c. 508, §14,  
22 is further amended to read:

24 **§1955-B. Payment of tax on vehicles resulting in protest**

26 Whenever the payment of the tax due for a vehicle results in  
a protest or is returned by the bank upon which it was drawn  
28 because of "Insufficient Funds," "Account Closed," "No Account"  
or a similar reason, the State Tax Assessor shall promptly mail a  
30 notice of dishonor, as defined in Title 11, section 3-508, to the  
person liable for the payment of the tax and warn that person  
32 that if payment is not made as demanded within 10 days after the  
mailing of the notice, suspension of the registration certificate  
34 and ~~plates~~ plate issued for the vehicle may result in accordance  
with Title 29, section 55-B. If that person fails to pay the  
36 amount due within 10 days after the mailing of the notice, the  
State Tax Assessor, in addition to enforcing collection by any  
38 method authorized by this Part or Part 1 ~~or--this--Part~~, may  
immediately notify the Secretary of State who, in accordance with  
40 Title 29, section 55-B, shall proceed to mail the required 5-day  
notice and suspend any registration certificate and ~~plates~~ plate  
42 issued for the vehicle for which the tax remains unpaid at the  
expiration of the 5-day period.

44  
46 **STATEMENT OF FACT**

48 This bill establishes a single license plate system in the  
50 State.