

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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115th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1991

Legislative Document

No. 167

H.P. 122

House of Representatives, January 28, 1991

Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ed Pert".

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative LIBBY of Kennebunk.
Cosponsored by Representative STEVENS of Sabattus.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND NINETY-ONE

An Act to Amend the Law Governing Abandoned Vehicles.



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

2
4 **Sec. 1. 29 MRSA §2610, sub-§1**, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 598,
§4, is amended to read:

6 **1. Application.** If a vehicle has been abandoned after
8 being brought to or left at the premises of any place of business
10 for garaging, repairing, parking, or storing; if a vehicle has
12 been abandoned after being towed to a place of business either at
14 the request of the owner or driver or pursuant to section 1111;
16 or if a vehicle is abandoned on private property, the owner of
18 the premises or property shall comply with this section. For the
purposes of this section, a vehicle ~~shall be~~ is considered
abandoned ~~30~~ 14 days after authorized repair work is done or
authorized garaging, parking or storing is completed, or after a
vehicle has remained on a property for ~~30~~ 14 days if no repair
work, garaging, storing or parking was authorized by the
vehicle's driver or owner.

20 **Sec. 2. 29 MRSA §2610, sub-§3**, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 598,
§4, is amended to read:

22 **3. Owner or lienholder known.** If the owner or lienholder
24 of a vehicle described in subsection 1 is known, the owner of the
26 premises or property where the vehicle is located shall mail
notice to the owner and lienholder, if any. Such ~~The~~ notice
28 shall must be mailed not later than 30 days after receipt of the
vehicle if no repair work, garaging, storing or parking was
30 authorized by the vehicle's owner or driver, or not later than 30
days following completion of any authorized repair work,
garaging, storing or parking. The notice shall must give the
32 location of the vehicle and the storage fee, if any, and state
that if the owner or lienholder has not properly claimed the
34 vehicle and paid all reasonable costs and charges for its towing,
storage and authorized repair work within 14 days of receipt of
36 the notice, ownership of the vehicle shall ~~pass~~ passes to the
owner of the premises or property where the vehicle is located,
38 as provided in subsection 4. The notice shall must be sent by
certified mail, return receipt requested. If the notice is
40 refused, unclaimed or returned and the owner of the vehicle or
lienholder has not properly claimed the vehicle and paid all
42 reasonable costs and charges within 30 days after the mailing of
the notice, ownership of the vehicle passes to the owner of the
44 premises or property where the vehicle is located as provided in
subsection 4.

46 **Sec. 3. 29 MRSA §2610, sub-§5**, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 598,
48 §4, is amended to read:

50 **5. Forfeit and penalty.** The holder of a vehicle, as
described in subsection 1, who knowingly fails to comply with
52 subsection 2 or 3 shall ~~forfeit~~ forfeits all claims and liens for

2 garaging, parking or storing of the vehicle and shall may be
4 punished by a fine of not more than \$25 \$5 for each day the
6 failure to comply continues.

8 **STATEMENT OF FACT**

10 This bill amends the law concerning abandoned vehicles. The
12 bill reduces the period after which a vehicle may be considered
14 abandoned from 30 to 14 days. The bill allows ownership of a
16 vehicle to transfer to the owner of the premises or property when
notice has been returned, unclaimed or refused.

In addition, the bill limits the applicability of the
forfeit and penalty provisions to knowing violators and reduces
the fine to \$5 per day.