

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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116th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-1994

Legislative Document

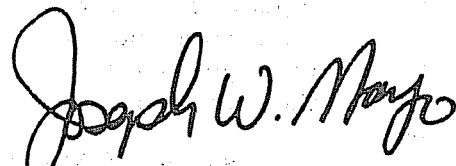
No. 1636

H.P. 1217

House of Representatives, January 5, 1994

An Act to Modify the Manufacture of Motor Vehicle Registration Plates.

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 26.
Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.


JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative STROUT of Corinth.
Cosponsored by Representatives: BAILEY of Farmington, O'GARA of Westbrook, Senators:
BRANNIGAN of Cumberland, GOULD of Waldo.

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

2
4 **Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §7759, sub-§1**, as enacted by PL 1993, c. 410,
Pt. BBB, §3, is amended to read:

6 **1. Fund established.** The Maine Environmental Trust Fund,
8 referred to in this section as the "fund," is established as a
10 nonlapsing fund administered by the commissioner for the purposes
12 of improving state parks and historic sites by supporting the
14 Maine State Parks Fund and managing nongame wildlife by
16 supporting the Maine Endangered and Nongame Wildlife Fund. Money
18 deposited with the Treasurer of State to the credit of the fund
may be invested as provided by law. Income from these
investments must be credited to the fund. The fund may also be
used for the marketing of the environmental registration plates
and for the production and marketing of goods using the license
plate design pursuant to Title 29, section 252-J. All proceeds
from the sale of those goods must be credited to the fund.

20 **Sec. 2. 29 MRSA §131, 3rd ¶**, as amended by PL 1991, c. 597,
§7, is further amended to read:

22 The following design elements are guidelines that must be
24 followed by the Secretary of State in the production of new
26 plates issued beginning July 1987. A new plate must have a white
background, and identification numbers and letters ~~and the border~~
28 must be distinctly navy blue in color with any graphic material
appearing in a color distinctly lobster red, featuring an
30 illustration of a lobster. The name of the State "Maine" must
appear centered at the top of the plate and the designation
32 "Vacationland" must appear centered at the bottom. This guidance
is meant to be applied in accordance with the authority held by
the Secretary of State in section 110.

34 **Sec. 3. 29 MRSA §252-J, sub-§2**, as enacted by PL 1993, c. 410,
36 Pt. BBB, §4, is amended to read:

38 **2. Plate design; optional environmental vanity plates.** The
40 Secretary of State, the Commissioner of Conservation, the
42 Commissioner of Environmental Protection and the Commissioner of
Inland Fisheries and Wildlife in consultation with the joint
standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over
transportation matters shall determine the plate design.

44 Reproduction of an approved design or a part of an approved
46 design without the written consent of the Secretary of State is a
violation of section 2181, subsection 2. The Secretary of State
48 shall obtain the advice and consent of the Commissioner of Inland
Fisheries and Wildlife and the Commissioner of Conservation
50 before issuing a written consent allowing the reproduction of the

2 design of the environmental registration plate or a part of the
3 design.

4 The design must accommodate the use of numbers and letters as
5 provided in section 192. Upon request and as provided by section
6 192, the Secretary of State shall issue environmental plates that
7 are also vanity plates. Environmental vanity plates are issued
8 in accordance with this section and section 192. The annual
9 service fee of \$15 for vanity plates is credited to the Highway
10 Fund.

11 **Sec. 4. 29 MRSA §2181, sub-§2, as amended by PL 1993, c. 297,**
12 **Pt. A, §29 and affected by §39, is further amended to read:**

13 **2. Printing or reproduction of motor vehicle document.** Any
14 person who manufactures or reproduces registration plates, prints
15 or otherwise prepares, or who causes to be printed or otherwise
16 prepared, or who sells or transfers a paper or document in the
17 form of a certificate of registration, operator's license or any
18 other certificate, permit, license or form used by the Secretary
19 of State in administering this Title or who reproduces, or who
20 causes to be reproduced, any certificate, registration plate,
21 permit, license or other form, or any part thereof, or who sells
22 or transfers any reproduced certificate, registration plate,
23 permit, license or other form, or any part thereof, used by the
24 Secretary of State in administering this Title, without the
25 written consent of the Secretary of State, must be punished by a
26 fine of not more than \$1,000 or by imprisonment for not more than
27 11 months, or by both. Notwithstanding this subsection, a person
28 may photocopy a certificate of registration solely for
29 record-keeping purposes without the written consent of the
30 Secretary of State.
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34 35 36 STATEMENT OF FACT

37 This bill does the following.

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39 1. It adds marketing of the environmental registration
40 plate and production and marketing of goods using the license
41 plate design as ways that the funds from the Maine Environmental
42 Trust Fund may be used. Proceeds from the sale of the products
43 must be credited to that fund.

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45 2. It allows the Secretary of State the option of using a
46 framed border on registration plates.

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48 3. The bill specifies that the Secretary of State will be
49 the authorizing authority when a request is made to reproduce an
50 environmental plate.

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4. It allows for assessment of a penalty if a registration plate is reproduced without proper authorization.

This document has not yet been reviewed to determine the need for cross-reference, stylistic and other technical amendments to conform existing law to current drafting standards.