

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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117th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1995

Legislative Document

No. 363

H.P. 261

House of Representatives, January 31, 1995

An Act to Allow the Issuance of Vanity Plates for Commercial Motor Vehicles and to Provide Special Registration Plates to Amateur Radio Operators.

Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph W. Mayo".

JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative WATSON of Farmingdale. (By Request)
Cosponsored by Representatives: BUNKER of Kossuth Township, GREEN of Monmouth,
POULIN of Oakland, SHIAH of Bowdoinham, STEVENS of Orono, TRIPP of Topsham.

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

Sec. 1. 29-A MRSA §453, sub-§1, as enacted by PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 and affected by Pt. B, §5, is amended to read:

1. Vanity registration plates. The Secretary of State may issue registration plates that contain letters or a combination of letters and numbers for automobiles, commercial motor vehicles, taxi cabs, limousines, pickup trucks, motorcycles, motor homes or trailers not to exceed 2,000 pounds, whether semitrailers, 4-wheeled or camp trailers. The number of characters appearing on such a plate may not exceed 7.

Sec. 2. 29-A MRSA §457-A is enacted to read:

§457-A. Amateur radio operator plates

1. Issuance of amateur radio operator plates. The Secretary of State, upon receiving an application and fee as provided in subsection 2, evidence of payment of the excise tax required by Title 36, section 1482, and the registration fee required by this Title, shall issue amateur radio operator plates inscribed with the official amateur radio call sign of the applicant to be used in lieu of regular registration plates.

2. Application and fee. An application for amateur radio operator plates must be accompanied by a copy of the applicant's current amateur radio license issued by the Federal Communications Commission and a service fee of \$15. The service fee of \$15 is an annual fee in addition to the regular motor vehicle registration fee. The service fee must be credited to the Highway Fund. A sum sufficient to defray the cost of this program must be allocated annually from the Highway Fund.

3. Recall of registration plates. If a registrant who has received amateur radio operator plates ceases to be licensed as an amateur radio operator, the registrant shall notify the Secretary of State and the Secretary of State shall recall the amateur radio operator plates.

4. Design. The Secretary of State shall determine the design of a special registration plate for amateur radio operators. The words "Amateur Radio" must be centered at the bottom in letters not less than 3/4" in height. The design may contain graphics related to amateur radio. The Secretary of State may seek the advice of licensed amateur radio operators with respect to the plate design.

5. Temporary facsimile plates. The Secretary of State may issue a facsimile plate for a 60-day period until the permanent

2 plate is received. The facsimile plate must be attached to the
3 rear plate bracket.

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5 **STATEMENT OF FACT**

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7 This bill allows the Secretary of State to issue vanity
8 plates for commercial motor vehicles.

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10 The bill also directs the Secretary of State to determine a
11 design for and issue special amateur radio operator plates. An
12 applicant for the special plates must provide a copy of that
13 person's amateur radio operator's license and pay an annual fee
14 of \$15 in addition to the regular registration fee.