

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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117th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1995

Legislative Document

No. 1550

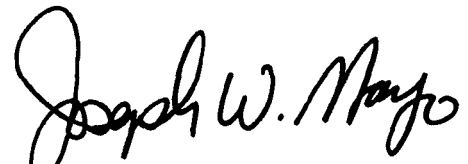
H.P. 1103

House of Representatives, May 24, 1995

An Act Concerning Environmental Registration Plates.

(EMERGENCY)

Reported by Representative O'GARA for the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation pursuant to Joint Order H.P. 882.


JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

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

4
6 Whereas, the continuing success of the environmental plate
program is dependent on changes in the distribution of the annual
contribution; and

8
10 Whereas, the Environmental Trust Fund is important to
improving our state parks and management of nongame wildlife; and

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

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

20 **Sec. 1. 29-A MRSA §455, sub-§§4 and 5,** as enacted by PL 1993,
c. 683, Pt. A, §2 and affected by Pt. B, §5, are amended to read:

22 **4. Initial contribution to the Maine Environmental Trust**
24 **Fund; renewal contribution.** In addition to the regular motor
vehicle registration fee prescribed by law for the particular
26 class of vehicle registered, the annual initial contribution for
environmental registration plates is \$20, which must be deposited
28 with the Treasurer of State and credited to the Maine
Environmental Trust Fund established in Title 12, section 7759.

30 In addition to the regular motor vehicle registration fee
32 prescribed by law for the particular class of vehicle registered,
34 the annual renewal contribution for environmental registration
36 plates is \$15, which must be deposited with the Treasurer of
State and credited to the Maine Environmental Trust Fund
established in Title 12, section 7759.

38 **5. Reimbursement for production and issuance costs.** The
Treasurer of State shall transfer annually from the Maine
40 Environmental Trust Fund to the ~~Secretary of State~~ \$10 Highway
Fund \$6 for each initial set of environmental registration plates
42 issued ~~or renewed~~ and \$1 for each renewal of environmental
registration plates. This transfer is to reimburse the Secretary
44 of State for costs associated with production and issuance of the
plates.

46 **Sec. 2. Allocation.** The following funds are allocated from
48 Other Special Revenue to carry out the purposes of this Act.

	1995-96	1996-97
2		
4	CONSERVATION, DEPARTMENT OF	
6	Maine State Parks Program	
8	All Other	\$149,325
	Capital Expenditures	\$184,000
10		200,000
12	Provides additional	
14	allocations to reflect	
	increased revenues from the	
	Maine Environmental Trust	
	Fund.	
16	DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION	
	TOTAL	
18	\$299,325	\$384,000
20	INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE,	
22	DEPARTMENT OF	
	Endangered Nongame Operations	
24	All Other	\$199,550
26		\$256,000
28	Provides additional	
30	allocations to reflect	
	increased revenues from the	
	Maine Environmental Trust	
	Fund.	
32	DEPARTMENT OF INLAND FISHERIES	
	AND WILDLIFE	
34	TOTAL	
36	\$199,550	\$256,000
38	TOTAL ALLOCATIONS	
	\$498,875	\$640,000
40	Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the	
	preamble, this Act takes effect when approved.	
42		
44	FISCAL NOTE	
46	1994-95	1995-96
		1996-97
48	APPROPRIATIONS/ALLOCATIONS	
50	Other Funds	\$498,875
		\$640,000

REVENUES

2				
	Highway Fund	(\$18,875)	(\$55,649)	(\$58,253)
4	Other Funds	\$18,875	\$640,000	\$640,000

6 The revised distribution formula for environmental plates
will reduce budgeted Highway Fund revenue by \$55,649 and \$58,253
8 in fiscal years 1995-96 and 1996-97, respectively. Since this
bill is an emergency, the revised distribution formula will
10 reduce Highway Fund revenue by \$18,875 in fiscal year 1994-95
based on current budgeted monthly estimates and assuming a 2-week
12 processing period. This estimate is based on a projected
effective date of June 1, 1995.

14 The actual loss of Highway Fund revenue is estimated to be
16 \$640,000 annually. Budgeted Highway Fund revenue from
environmental plates was incorrectly based on a partial year base
18 and underestimates the amount of actual Highway Fund revenue that
will be generated by the program.

20 The bill will increase dedicated revenue to the Maine
22 Environmental Trust Fund by \$640,000 annually beginning in fiscal
year 1995-96. In addition, because this bill is an emergency,
24 the fund will also realize additional dedicated revenues of
\$18,875 for fiscal year 1994-95.

26 Additional annual allocations of the new dedicated revenue
28 are included based on the following distributions: the Maine
State Parks Fund within the Department of Conservation will
30 receive an additional \$299,325 and \$384,000 and the Maine
Endangered and Nongame Wildlife Fund within the Department of
32 Inland Fisheries and Wildlife will receive an additional \$199,550
and \$256,000 in fiscal years 1995-96 and 1996-97, respectively.
34 The allocation amounts differ from the revenue estimates due to
the lag in the transfer of this dedicated revenue to the Maine
36 Environmental Trust Fund.

38

STATEMENT OF FACT

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This bill changes the transfer of funds from the Maine
42 Environmental Trust Fund to the Highway Fund from \$10 per set for
an initial set of plates issued to \$6 per set. It reduces the
44 annual contribution for renewals from \$20 to \$15 and provides for
\$1 from each renewal to be transferred to the Highway Fund.
46 After payment to the Highway Fund for production and issuance of
plates, the remaining funds, \$14 per set of plates, would be
48 distributed 60% to the Maine State Parks Fund and 40% to the
Maine Endangered and Nongame Wildlife Fund.