

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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M  
R. & S.

L.D. 1639

2

DATE: 3/25/96

(Filing No. H- 847)

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**TRANSPORTATION**

8

10 Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Clerk of  
the House.

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**STATE OF MAINE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
117TH LEGISLATURE  
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

16

18

20 COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1195, L.D. 1639, Bill, "An  
Act to Amend Certain Motor Vehicle Laws Including Those Affecting  
the University of Maine System Plate and the Certificate of Lien"

22

24 Amend the bill by inserting after the title and before the  
enacting clause the following:

26

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

28

30

**Whereas,** corrections of omissions in certain motor vehicle  
laws are important to the enforcement of those laws; and

32

34 **Whereas,** planning and preparation for a new general issue of  
registration plates is an enormous task; and

36

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

40

42

Further amend the bill by inserting after the enacting  
clause and before section 1 the following:

44

46

**'PART A'**

48

Further amend the bill by striking out all of sections 2 and  
5.

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2 Further amend the bill in section 8 in subsection 5 in the  
first line (page 3, line 45 in L.D.) by striking out the  
4 following: "shall" and inserting in its place the following:  
'shall'

6  
8 Further amend the bill in section 17 by striking out all of  
subsection 5 (page 6, lines 1 to 9 in L.D.) and inserting in its  
place the following:

10  
12 **'5. Coverage of insurance or bond.** The required insurance  
policy or bond must adequately provide liability insurance for  
14 the collection of damages for which the holder of a permit or the  
owner of a motor vehicle or vehicles may be liable by reason of  
the operation of a motor vehicle or vehicles subject to this  
16 chapter. ~~For--passenger--carriers--operating--for--hire--the  
Secretary of State may not approve the policy or bond unless it  
18 provides primary coverage for the operator as well as the owner.'~~

20 Further amend the bill by inserting after section 18 the  
following:

22  
24 **'Sec. 19. Application.** The changes in minimum insurance  
coverage for dealers and transporters enacted by amending the  
Maine Revised Statutes, Title 29-A, section 1612 apply to  
26 registrations for the year 1997 and subsequent years.

28 **Sec. 20. Effective date.** That section of this Part that amends  
the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 29-A, section 456 takes effect  
30 on July 1, 1996. Those sections of this Part that amend Title  
29-A, sections 651, 657 and 664 and that section that repeals  
32 Title 29-A, section 667, subsection 5, paragraph A takes effect  
on October 1, 1996.'

34  
36 Further amend the bill by inserting at the end before the  
statement of fact the following:

38  
40 **'PART B**

42 **Sec. B-1. 29-A MRSA c. 3, sub-c. II** is amended by repealing the  
subchapter headnote and enacting the following in its place:

44 **SUBCHAPTER II**

46 **MUNICIPAL AGENTS, RENEWAL AGENTS AND**  
48 **REGISTRATION AGENTS**

**Sec. B-2. 29-A MRSA §101, sub-§61-A** is enacted to read:

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2           **61-A. Registration agent.** "Registration agent" means a  
3 nongovernmental entity authorized by the Secretary of State to  
4 conduct registration transactions on the bureau's behalf.

6           **Sec. B-3. 29-A MRSA §204** is enacted to read:

8           **§204. Registration agents**

10           **1. Appointment; scope of authority.** The Secretary of State  
11 may appoint registration agents to issue original registrations,  
12 to renew registrations and to transfer registrations from one  
13 vehicle to another. The Secretary of State may limit the agent's  
14 authority to the issuance of renewals or to the issuance of  
15 renewals and transfers only. A registration agent may issue,  
16 renew or transfer a registration only when one of the following  
17 conditions is met:

18                   **A.** The registration does not require payment of excise tax;  
19 or

21                   **B.** Excise tax has been paid in accordance with Title 36,  
22 chapter 111.

24           **2. Training.** The Secretary of State shall provide  
25 necessary training for registration agents. A registration agent  
26 appointed pursuant to this section shall complete a training  
27 program or programs required by the Secretary of State.

29           **3. Duration of appointment.** An appointment for a  
30 registration agent remains in effect until revoked by the  
31 Secretary of State or voluntarily surrendered. An appointment  
32 may be revoked by the Secretary of State for cause.

34           **4. Rules.** The Secretary of State may adopt rules to  
35 implement the provisions of this section. The rules must include  
36 requirements for training of registration agents, for accounting  
37 standards and inventory control and for the electronic  
38 transmission of data and funds between registration agents and  
39 the bureau. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are  
40 routine technical rules as defined in the Title 5, chapter 375,  
41 subchapter II-A.

43           **Sec. B-4. 29-A MRSA §§255 and 256** are enacted to read:

45           **§255. Confidentiality for public safety**

47           **1. Confidential records.** Notwithstanding any other  
48 provision of law, the Secretary of State or a designee of the  
49 Secretary of State may hold records relating to a person's motor  
50

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2 vehicle registration and driver's license confidential for a  
3 specified period of time when the following conditions are met:

4 A. The Secretary of State has received a written request  
5 showing cause that a person is in danger of serious bodily  
6 injury or death by another person and that the endangered  
7 person is relocating for the specific purpose of avoiding  
8 harm; and

10 B. The Secretary of State or a designee of the Secretary of  
11 State has consulted with the Commissioner of Public Safety  
12 or a designee of the commissioner and the Attorney General  
13 or a designee of the Attorney General and has determined  
14 that holding the endangered person's driver's license and  
15 motor vehicle registration records as confidential is in the  
16 best interest of public safety.

18 2. Release of records. The Secretary of State may release  
19 information held in confidence pursuant to subsection 1 to law  
20 enforcement officers and municipal, county, state or federal  
21 agencies that demonstrate a necessity for the information. The  
22 Secretary of State shall prescribe the conditions under which the  
23 information may be used and the person receiving the information  
24 may only use the information as prescribed.

26 3. Liability for release. Neither failure of the Secretary  
27 of State or an employee of the Secretary of State to perform the  
28 requirements of this section nor compliance with it subjects the  
29 Secretary of State or employees of the Secretary of State to  
30 liability in a civil action.

32 4. Rules. The Secretary of State may, in consultation with  
33 the Commissioner of Public Safety and the Attorney General, adopt  
34 rules necessary for the implementation of this section. Rules  
35 adopted pursuant to this section are routine technical rules as  
36 defined in the Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter II-A.

38 **§256. Federal Driver's Privacy Protection Act of 1994**

40 The Secretary of State shall comply with the provisions of  
41 Title 18, United States Code, Chapter 123 in disclosing records.

42 **Sec. B-5. 29-A MRSA §401, sub-§2, as amended by PL 1995, c.**  
43 **482, Pt. B, §3, is further amended to read:**

46 **2. Content of application.** An application must contain  
47 information requested by the Secretary of State, including legal  
48 name, residence and address of the registrant, current mileage of  
49 the a motor vehicle, a brief description of the vehicle, the  
50 maker, the vehicle identification number, the year of

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2 manufacture, and the type of motor fuel and the--actual--gross  
3 weight--of, for trucks, truck-tractors and special mobile  
4 equipment, the gross weight. The An initial application for  
5 registration must be signed by the registered owner or the  
6 registered owner's legal representative. The Secretary of State  
7 shall keep initial applications on file until that registration  
8 is terminated.

9 **Sec. B-6. 29-A MRSA §411** is enacted to read:

10 **§411. Multi-year fleet registration**

11 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of  
12 State may authorize registrants with 100 or more motor vehicle  
13 registrations to participate in a multi-year fleet registration  
14 program. Registrants shall elect a common expiration date for  
15 all vehicles placed in the multi-year fleet registration  
16 program. With permission of the Secretary of State, a registrant  
17 may establish more than one fleet.

18 Motor vehicles registered pursuant to a multi-year fleet  
19 registration program may be issued registration credentials for a  
20 period not to exceed 5 years. The Secretary of State shall  
21 establish a method for the annual verification and collection of  
22 appropriate registration fees and excise taxes. When municipal  
23 excise tax is required under Title 36, chapter 111, the person  
24 registering the motor vehicles shall pay the excise tax directly  
25 to the appropriate municipality.

26 The Secretary of State may adopt rules for the  
27 implementation of a multi-year fleet registration program. Rules  
28 adopted pursuant to this section are routine technical rules as  
29 defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter II-A.

30 **Sec. B-7. 29-A MRSA §512**, as enacted by PL 1993, c. 683, Pt.  
31 A, §2 and affected by Pt. B, §5, is amended by adding a new 2nd  
32 paragraph to read:

33 Upon receiving a request for a registration extension from a  
34 registrant with a semitrailer properly registered in accordance  
35 with this section, the Secretary of State shall issue a new  
36 registration plate and registration document. That portion of a  
37 registration fee paid in accordance with this section and  
38 representing the unexpired period on that registration must be  
39 credited toward the fees required for the new registration.

40 **Sec. B-8. 29-A MRSA §523, sub-§2**, as enacted by PL 1993, c.  
41 683, Pt. A, §2 and affected by Pt. B, §5, is amended to read:

42 **2. Disabled veterans; special free license plates.** The

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Secretary of State on application and upon evidence of payment of the excise tax required by Title 36, section 1482, shall issue a registration certificate and set of special designating plates to be used in lieu of regular registration plates to any 100% disabled veteran when that application is accompanied by certification from the United States Veterans Administration or any branch of the United States Armed Forces as to the veteran's permanent disability and receipt of 100% service-connected benefits ~~and that the veteran is permanently confined to a wheelchair or restricted to the use of crutches or braces or otherwise handicapped in such a way that mobility is seriously restricted.~~ A handicap disabled placard is issued in addition to the disabled veteran registration plate at no fee.

These special designating plates must bear the words "Disabled Veteran," which indicate that the vehicle is owned by a disabled veteran.

**Sec. B-9. 29-A MRSA §524, sub-§4,** as enacted by PL 1995, c. 198, §1, is amended to read:

**4. Purple Heart medal recipients; special license plates.** The Secretary of State, on application and upon evidence of payment of the excise tax required by Title 36, section 1482, the registration fee required by section 501 and a one-time additional fee of \$10, shall issue a registration certificate and a set of Purple Heart registration plates, to be used in lieu of regular registration plates, to a person who is a Purple Heart medal recipient. The one-time additional fee of \$10 is credited to the Highway Fund for administrative and production costs.

An application for Purple Heart plates must be accompanied by proof that the applicant has been awarded the Purple Heart medal. The Secretary of State shall verify the documentation presented by the applicant. Misrepresentation of documents is in violation of section 2103, subsection 5.

The Secretary of State may only issue Purple Heart plates for display on an automobile or pickup truck. A Purple Heart recipient may be issued Purple Heart plates for no more than 2 vehicles.

The surviving spouse of a Purple Heart recipient issued plates in accordance with this subsection may retain and display the Purple Heart plates as long as the surviving spouse remains unmarried. Upon remarriage, the surviving spouse may not use the Purple Heart plates on a motor vehicle, but may retain them as a keepsake. Upon the death of the surviving spouse, the family may retain the Purple Heart plates, but may not use them on a motor vehicle.

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2 The Secretary of State shall determine the design of the Purple  
3 Heart plate. Upon request and as provided by section 453, the  
4 Secretary of State shall issue Purple Heart plates that are also  
5 vanity plates. Purple Heart vanity plates are issued in  
6 accordance with this section and section 453. The annual service  
7 fee of \$15 for vanity plates is credited to the Highway Fund.

8  
9 A Purple Heart recipient or the surviving spouse of a Purple  
10 Heart recipient, who does not operate a motor vehicle or register  
11 a motor vehicle and who otherwise qualifies for the issuance of  
12 special Purple Heart registration plates may apply to the  
13 Secretary of State for a special single plate recognizing that  
14 person's award.

15 The Secretary of State shall design and identify these single  
16 plates for recognition purposes only. Single Purple Heart plates  
17 may not be attached to a motor vehicle. Only one plate may be  
18 issued to each recipient and a one-time fee of \$5 charged.

19 The Secretary of State shall begin issuing Purple Heart plates in  
20 accordance with this subsection no later than November 1, 1995.

21  
22 **Sec. B-10. 29-A MRSA §525, sub-§§11 and 12,** as enacted by PL  
23 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 and affected by Pt. B, §5, are amended to  
24 read:

25  
26 **11. Cooperation.** The State Tax Assessor, the Department of  
27 Public Safety and the Secretary of State shall cooperate in the  
28 issuance of decals, licenses and permits, the processing of tax  
29 returns, enforcement of this section and to ensure that timely  
30 information is readily available to all enforcement personnel of  
31 the status of those in noncompliance with the fuel use tax laws,  
32 intrastate and interstate for-hire operating authority permit  
33 requirements and motor vehicle registration laws.

34  
35 Subject to the provisions of Title 36, the State Tax Assessor may  
36 delegate to the Secretary of State responsibility for the  
37 processing of motor carrier fuel tax returns, motor carrier fuel  
38 tax collection and compliance with the administrative  
39 requirements of the International Fuel Tax Agreement.

40  
41 **12. Funds.** All fees, fines, fuel tax revenue and  
42 forfeitures accrue to the Highway Fund.

43  
44 **Sec. B-11. 29-A MRSA §954, sub-§5,** as amended by PL 1995, c.  
45 309, §26 and affected by §29, is further amended to read:

46  
47 **5. Transporter.** A garage owner, body shop, finance  
48 company, bank, motor vehicle auction business, recycler or  
49



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repossession company licensed by the Office of Consumer Credit Regulation may be issued transporter plates and a license to transport a vehicle owned by or in the custody of that owner or business.

A. The holder may use this plate only if the vehicle is accompanied by the owner or the owner's employee.

B. A transporter plate may not be:

- (1) Used in lieu of registration plates;
- (2) Loaned to another;
- (3) Used for personal reasons; or
- (4) Used on a towing vehicle.

**Sec. B-12. 29-A MRSA §1404, sub-§2**, as enacted by PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 and affected by Pt. B, §5, is amended to read:

**2. Prior convictions.** A person convicted of operating under the influence of intoxicating liquor or drugs or with an excessive blood-alcohol level, as defined in section 2453, subsection 2, within 6 10 years of the date the license is issued, reissued or returned after a period of suspension bears a coded notation of that fact.

**Sec. B-13. 29-A MRSA §1407**, as enacted by PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 and affected by Pt. B, §5, is amended to read:

**§1407. Change of location or status**

When a person, after applying for or receiving a driver's license or registration, moves from the address named in the application or on the license or registration issued or changes name, that person shall, within 10 days, notify the Secretary of State, in writing or by other means approved by the Secretary of State, of the old and new addresses or former and new names and of the number of the licenses and registrations held.

**Sec. B-14. 29-A MRSA §2104, sub-§4** is enacted to read:

**4. Alterations to registration plates.** Except when a greater penalty is applicable, a person commits a traffic infraction if that person adds or attaches to a registration plate a decal, symbol, slogan, mark, letter or number not authorized by law or by the Secretary of State.

**Sec. B-15. 29-A MRSA §2303, sub-§1, ¶G**, as enacted by PL

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1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 and affected by Pt. B, §5, is amended to read:

G. Has not received an OUI conviction, as defined in section 2401, subsection 9, within the preceding ~~6-year~~ 10-year period.

**Sec. B-16. 29-A MRSA §2411, sub-§5, ¶D,** as repealed and replaced by PL 1995, c. 368, Pt. AAA, §8, is amended to read:

D. For a person having 3 or more previous OUI offenses within a 10-year period, which is a Class C crime:

(1) A fine of not less than \$2,000, except that if the person failed to submit to a test at the request of a law enforcement officer, a fine of not less than \$2,400;

(2) A period of incarceration of not less than 6 months, except that if the person failed to submit to a test at the request of a law enforcement officer, a period of incarceration of not less than 6 months and 20 days;

(3) A court-ordered suspension of a driver's license for a period of 6 years; and

(4) In accordance with section 2416, a court-ordered suspension of the person's right to register a motor vehicle;

**Sec. B-17. 29-A MRSA §2412-A, sub-§3,** as enacted by PL 1995, c. 368, Pt. AAA, §12, is amended to read:

**3. Minimum mandatory sentences for certain suspension.** If the suspension was for OUI or an OUI offense, the court shall impose a minimum fine of \$500, a term of imprisonment of 7 consecutive days and a suspension of license of not less than one year nor more than 3 years consecutive to the original suspension. The penalties may not be suspended.

A. If the person has a prior conviction for violating this section within a 10-year period and was subject to the minimum mandatory sentences, then the following minimum penalties, which may not be suspended by the court, apply in the event the suspension was for OUI:

(1) A minimum fine of \$1,000, a term of imprisonment of 30 consecutive days and a suspension of license for not less than one year nor more than 3 years consecutive to the original suspension in the event of one prior conviction;

2 (2) A minimum fine of \$2,000, a term of imprisonment  
4 of 60 consecutive days and a suspension of license for  
6 not less than one year nor more than 3 years  
consecutive to the original suspension in the event of  
2 prior convictions; or

8 (3) A minimum fine of \$3,000, a term of imprisonment  
10 of 6 months and a suspension of license for not less  
12 than one year nor more than 3 years consecutive to the  
original suspension in the event of 3 or more prior  
convictions. The sentencing class for this offense is  
a Class C crime.

14 B. For all other suspensions, the minimum fine is \$200,  
16 which may not be suspended by the court if the person has a  
18 prior conviction for violating this section within a 10-year  
period.

20 A separate reading of the allegation and a separate trial as  
22 required by Title 15, section 757 do not apply to a proceeding  
under this subsection.

24 **Sec. B-18. 29-A MRSA §2455, sub-§1, ¶¶B and D,** as enacted by PL  
26 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 and affected by Pt. B, §5, are amended to  
read:

28 B. The person had not attained the legal drinking age and  
30 was operating a motor vehicle ~~while having .02% or more by~~  
~~weight of~~ with any amount of alcohol in ~~that person's~~ the  
blood;

32 D. There was probable cause to believe that the person had  
34 not attained the legal drinking age and was operating a  
36 motor vehicle ~~while having .02% or more by weight~~ with any  
38 amount of alcohol in ~~that person's~~ the blood and failed to  
comply with the duty to submit to and complete a test to  
determine blood-alcohol level.

40 **Sec. B-19. 29-A MRSA §2521, sub-§6,** as amended by PL 1995, c.  
42 368, Pt. AAA, §30, is further amended to read:

44 **6. Period of suspension.** Except when a longer period of  
46 suspension is otherwise provided by law, the suspension is for a  
period of ~~180~~ 275 days for the first refusal, 18 months for a 2nd  
refusal, 4 years for a 3rd refusal and 6 years for a 4th refusal.

48 **Sec. B-20. 29-A MRSA §2551, sub-§1, ¶J,** as enacted by PL 1993,  
c. 683, Pt. A, §2 and affected by Pt. B, §5, is amended to read:

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2 J. Failure to report an accident involving property damage,  
in violation of section 2253, 2254 or 2255;

4

6 **Sec. B-21. 36 MRSA §1482, sub-§1, ¶C**, as amended by PL 1995,  
c. 440, §4 and affected by §5, is further amended to read:

8

10 C. For the privilege of operating a motor vehicle or camper  
trailer on the public ways, each motor vehicle, other than a  
stock race car, or each camper trailer to be so operated is  
subject to excise tax as follows, except as specified in  
12 subparagraph (3): a sum equal to 24 mills on each dollar of  
the maker's list price for the first or current year of  
14 model, 17 1/2 mills for the 2nd year, 13 1/2 mills for the  
3rd year, 10 mills for the 4th year, 6 1/2 mills for the 5th  
16 year and 4 mills for the 6th and succeeding years. The  
minimum tax is \$5 for a motor vehicle other than a bicycle  
18 with motor attached, \$2.50 for a bicycle with motor  
attached, \$15 for a camper trailer other than a tent trailer  
20 and \$5 for a tent trailer. The excise tax on a stock race  
car is \$5.

22

24 (1) On new registrations of automobiles, trucks and  
truck tractors, the excise tax payment must be made  
prior to registration and is for a one-year period from  
26 the date of registration.

28

30 (2) Vehicles registered under the International  
Registration Plan are subject to an excise tax  
determined on a monthly proration basis if their  
32 registration period is less than 12 months.

34

36 (3) For commercial vehicles manufactured in model year  
1996 and after, the amount of excise tax due for  
commercial vehicles, as defined in Title 29-A, section  
101, subsection 17, paragraph A and for special mobile  
38 equipment, as defined in Title 29-A, section 101,  
subsection 70, is based on the purchase price in the  
original year of title rather than on the list price.  
40 Verification of purchase price for the application of  
excise tax is determined by the initial bill of sale or  
42 the state sales tax document provided at point of  
purchase. The initial bill of sale is that issued by  
44 the dealer to the initial purchaser of a new vehicle.

46

48 For motor vehicles being registered pursuant to Title 29-A,  
section 405, subsection 1, paragraph C, the excise tax must  
be prorated for the number of months in the registration.

50

**Sec. B-22. Effective date.** Those sections of this Part

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2 that enact the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 29-A, section 101,  
3 subsection 61-A; and sections 204, 411 and 2104, subsection 4;  
4 and that amend Title 29-A, sections 401, 523, 525, 1404 and 2521;  
5 and that amend Title 36, section 1482 take effect on July 1,  
6 1996. Those sections of this Part that enact Title 29-A,  
7 sections 255 and 256 take effect on October 1, 1996.

8  
9  
10 **PART C**

11 **Sec. C-1. 29-A MRSA §451, sub-§1-A** is enacted to read;

12 1-A. New general issue. The Secretary of State shall  
13 provide for a new general issue of registration plates and shall  
14 begin issuing the new plates no later than July 1, 1999. The  
15 Secretary of State shall provide for the issuance of new plates  
16 before December 31, 2000 to all vehicles required to obtain new  
17 plates.

18  
19 **Sec. C-2. 29-A MRSA §451, sub-§4, ¶D**, as amended by PL 1995,  
20 c. 65, Pt. A, §86 and affected by §153 and Pt. C, §15, is further  
21 amended to read:

22  
23 D. A new registration plate must have:

24 (1) A white background;

25 (2) Identification numbers and letters distinctly navy  
26 blue; and

27 (3) An illustration of a lobster distinctly lobster  
28 red.

29  
30 This paragraph is repealed on July 1, 1999.

31  
32 **Sec. C-3. 29-A MRSA §451, sub-§6**, as enacted by PL 1993, c.  
33 683, Pt. A, §2 and affected by Pt. B, §5, is amended to read:

34  
35 **6. Plates to be manufactured at State Prison.** The Secretary  
36 of State or the duly designated official in charge of vehicle  
37 registration shall purchase and cause to be installed at the  
38 State Prison the necessary equipment and materials for the  
39 production of all vehicle registration plates used in the State.  
40 Only plates that can not be produced at the prison and plates for  
41 which anticipated demand is below a minimum number determined by  
42 the Secretary of State may be purchased for state use.

43 The Warden of the State Prison shall--have has charge of  
44 operations at the State Prison relative to the manufacture of all  
45 plates made for the State. The Warden of the State Prison, with  
46

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2 the consent of the Secretary of State, may employ for limited  
3 periods of time a supervisor for the purpose of instructing  
4 inmates in the operation of making such plates.

6 **Sec. C-4. 29-A MRSA §§466 and 467** are enacted to read:

8 **§466. Registration Plate Equipment and Production Program**

10 The Registration Plate Equipment and Production Program is  
11 established as a program within the Highway Fund. One dollar  
12 from each registration fee paid in accordance with section 457,  
13 458, 501, 504, 505, 509, 513, 515 or 520 must be paid into the  
14 Highway Fund and allocated to the Registration Plate Equipment  
15 and Production Program. The Legislature may authorize  
16 allocations from the program exclusively for costs relating to  
17 the design, production, storage, handling and issuance of  
18 registration plates. These costs may include, but are not  
19 limited to, the following: the purchase, installation, repair and  
20 rebuilding of equipment used in the production or handling of  
21 registration plates; materials used in the production, handling  
22 and shipping of registration plates; and buildings or space  
23 rented, leased or purchased for the production or storage of  
24 registration plates or the storage of materials used in the  
25 production of plates. Highway Fund allocations to the  
26 Registration Plate Equipment and Production Program may not lapse  
27 but must be carried forward to be used for the same purposes.

28 **§467. Moratorium on specialty plates**

30 During the period beginning on July 1, 1996 and ending July  
31 1, 1999, the Secretary of State may not issue any specialty plate  
32 of a new design. For the purposes of this section, "specialty  
33 plate of a new design" means any plate of a design not authorized  
34 under this Title before July 1, 1996. It does not include vanity  
35 plates issued in accordance with section 453 or commemorative  
36 plates issued in accordance with section 454.

38 **Sec. C-5. 29-A MRSA §457, sub-§7**, as enacted by PL 1993, c.  
39 683, Pt. A, §2 and affected by Pt. B, §5, is amended to read:

40 **7. Registration fee.** The fee for registration of an  
41 antique auto, horseless carriage or antique motorcycle is \$12  
42 \$13. The fee for registration of a street rod is \$27 \$28.

44 **Sec. C-6. 29-A MRSA §458, sub-§2**, as enacted by PL 1993, c.  
45 683, Pt. A, §2 and affected by Pt. B, §5, is amended to read:

46 **2. Fee.** The fee for a registration plate under this  
47 section is \$5 \$6.

R. of S.

2           **Sec. C-7. 29-A MRSA §461**, as amended by PL 1995, c. 482, Pt.  
B, §5, is further amended to read:

4           **§461. Reservation of same number**

6           **1. Plate issue year.** In a year in which new registration  
8 plates are issued, the Secretary of State shall reserve until  
10 July 1st the same registration number for the succeeding  
12 registration year for a person who notifies in writing the  
Secretary of State prior to May 1st of that person's desire to  
retain that registration number. The fee for retention of the  
same registration number is \$5 \$15.

14           If a person does not have a vehicle to register on May 1st, a  
16 registration number may be held for a maximum of 2 registration  
18 years by depositing with the Secretary of State \$10 \$15 for each  
20 year; except that the registered owner of an antique vehicle may  
reserve the antique registration assigned to that person for 4  
years by depositing the sum of \$12 \$15 for each registration  
22 year. These fees are not refundable and may not be applied  
against the registration fee.

24           All numbers other than those reserved must be released and issued  
in rotation after July 1st.

26           A person wishing to select a number out of rotation may do so by  
28 paying the registration fee and a reserved number fee of \$5.

30           A holder of vanity registration plates must pay the sum of \$15 to  
reserve those letters or combination of letters and numbers,  
32 which is credited toward the renewal fee.

34           **2. Nonplate issue year.** In other than a plate issue year,  
when a person fails to reregister and the registration remains  
36 expired for 6 consecutive months, the reservation of the same  
number ceases and the number becomes available for reissuance.

38           For a maximum of 2 registration years, a person may reserve the  
40 registration number assigned to that person by depositing with  
the Secretary of State the sum of \$10 \$15 for each year; except  
42 that the registered owner of an antique motor vehicle may reserve  
the antique registration assigned to that person for 4 years by  
44 depositing with the Secretary of State the sum of \$12 \$15 for  
each year. A person wishing to select a number out of rotation  
46 may do so by paying the registration fee and a reserved number  
fee of \$5.

48           **Sec. C-8. 29-A MRSA §501, sub-§1**, as affected by PL 1995, c.  
50 65, Pt. A, §153, amended by Pt. C, §3 and affected by §15, is  
further amended to read:

R.M.S.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1195, L.D. 1639

2           **1. Automobiles; pickup trucks.** The fee for an automobile  
or pickup truck used for the conveyance of passengers or  
4 interchangeably for passengers or property is ~~\$22~~ \$23.

6 An automobile used for the conveyance of passengers or property  
is a "combination" vehicle and may be issued a special plate with  
8 the word "combination" instead of "Vacationland." A passenger  
vehicle used under contract with the State, a municipality or a  
10 school district to transport students must be designated as  
"combination." A vehicle owned or operated by parents or legal  
12 guardians is exempt from this subsection.

14 Commercial plates may not be issued for or displayed on an  
automobile.

16  
18 The gross weight of a pickup truck registered as provided by this  
subsection may not exceed 6,000 pounds. An owner of a pickup  
truck who operates the pickup truck with a gross weight in excess  
20 of 6,000 pounds or the pickup truck drawing a semitrailer with a  
combined gross weight in excess of 6,000 pounds must register the  
22 truck as provided in section 504.

24           **Sec. C-9. 29-A MRSA §504, sub-§1,** as enacted by PL 1993, c.  
683, Pt. A, §2 and affected by Pt. B, §5, is amended to read:

26           **1. Truck or truck tractor.** For a truck or truck tractor  
28 equipped with pneumatic tires, the following annual registration  
fee schedule applies.

30           A. For gross weight from 0 to 6,000 pounds, the fee is ~~\$22~~  
32           \$23.

34           B. For gross weight from 6,001 to 9,000 pounds, the fee is  
~~\$28~~ \$29.

36           C. For gross weight from 9,001 to 12,000 pounds, the fee is  
38           ~~\$45~~ \$46.

40           D. For gross weight from 12,001 to 14,000 pounds, the fee  
is ~~\$78~~ \$79.

42           E. For gross weight from 14,001 to 16,000 pounds, the fee  
44           is ~~\$102~~ \$103.

46           F. For gross weight from 16,001 to 18,000 pounds, the fee  
is ~~\$127~~ \$128.

48           G. For gross weight from 18,001 to 20,000 pounds, the fee  
50           is ~~\$158~~ \$159.

# COMMITTEE AMENDMENT



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COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1195, L.D. 1639

- 2 H. For gross weight from 20,001 to 23,000 pounds, the fee  
is ~~\$185~~ \$186.
- 4 I. For gross weight from 23,001 to 26,000 pounds, the fee  
6 is ~~\$217~~ \$218.
- 8 J. For gross weight from 26,001 to 28,000 pounds, the fee  
10 is ~~\$264~~ \$265.
- 12 K. For gross weight from 28,001 to 32,000 pounds, the fee  
is ~~\$305~~ \$306.
- 14 L. For gross weight from 32,001 to 34,000 pounds, the fee  
16 is ~~\$339~~ \$340.
- 18 M. For gross weight from 34,001 to 38,000 pounds, the fee  
is ~~\$376~~ \$377.
- 20 N. For gross weight from 38,001 to 40,000 pounds, the fee  
22 is ~~\$400~~ \$401.
- 24 O. For gross weight from 40,001 to 42,000 pounds, the fee  
is ~~\$423~~ \$424.
- 26 P. For gross weight from 42,001 to 45,000 pounds, the fee  
28 is ~~\$447~~ \$448.
- 30 Q. For gross weight from 45,001 to 48,000 pounds, the fee  
is ~~\$494~~ \$495.
- 32 R. For gross weight from 48,001 to 51,000 pounds, the fee  
34 is ~~\$530~~ \$531.
- 36 S. For gross weight from 51,001 to 54,000 pounds, the fee  
is ~~\$565~~ \$566.
- 38 T. For gross weight from 54,001 to 55,000 pounds, the fee  
40 is ~~\$577~~ \$578.
- 42 U. For gross weight from 55,001 to 60,000 pounds, the fee  
is ~~\$637~~ \$638.
- 44 V. For gross weight from 60,001 to 65,000 pounds, the fee  
46 is ~~\$696~~ \$697.
- 48 W. For gross weight from 65,001 to 69,000 pounds, the fee  
is ~~\$759~~ \$760.
- 50 X. For gross weight from 69,001 to 72,000 pounds, the fee  
is ~~\$794~~ \$795.

R. of S.

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- 2 Y. For gross weight from 72,001 to 75,000 pounds, the fee  
is ~~\$818~~ \$819.
- 4
- 6 Z. For gross weight from 75,001 to 78,000 pounds, the fee  
is ~~\$854~~ \$855.
- 8
- 10 AA. For gross weight from 78,001 to 80,000 pounds, the fee  
is ~~\$874~~ \$875.
- 12
- 14 BB. For gross weight from 80,001 to 90,000 pounds, the fee  
is ~~\$979~~ \$980.
- 16 **Sec. C-10. 29-A MRSA §505, sub-§2**, as enacted by PL 1993, c.  
683, Pt. A, §2 and affected by Pt. B, §5, is amended to read:
- 18 **2. Annual registration fee.** For a farm truck, the following  
annual registration fee schedule applies.
- 20 A. For gross weight from 0 to 6,000 pounds, the fee is ~~\$18~~  
\$19.
- 22
- 24 B. For gross weight from 6,001 to 9,000 pounds, the fee is  
~~\$21~~ \$22.
- 26
- 28 C. For gross weight from 9,001 to 11,000 pounds, the fee is  
~~\$24~~ \$25.
- 30
- 32 D. For gross weight from 11,001 to 14,000 pounds, the fee  
is ~~\$36~~ \$37.
- 34
- 36 E. For gross weight from 14,001 to 16,000 pounds, the fee  
is ~~\$47~~ \$48.
- 38
- 40 F. For gross weight from 16,001 to 18,000 pounds, the fee  
is ~~\$69~~ \$70.
- 42
- 44 G. For gross weight from 18,001 to 20,000 pounds, the fee  
is ~~\$81~~ \$82.
- 46
- 48 H. For gross weight from 20,001 to 23,000 pounds, the fee  
is ~~\$98~~ \$99.
- 50
- I. For gross weight from 23,001 to 26,000 pounds, the fee  
is ~~\$116~~ \$117.
- J. For gross weight from 26,001 to 29,000 pounds, the fee  
is ~~\$143~~ \$144.
- K. For gross weight from 29,001 to 32,000 pounds, the fee  
is ~~\$163~~ \$164.

# COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

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COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1195, L.D. 1639

- 2 L. For gross weight from 32,001 to 35,000 pounds, the fee  
is ~~\$239~~ \$240.
- 4 M. For gross weight from 35,001 to 38,000 pounds, the fee  
6 is ~~\$262~~ \$263.
- 8 N. For gross weight from 38,001 to 42,000 pounds, the fee  
10 is ~~\$285~~ \$286.
- 12 O. For gross weight from 42,001 to 46,000 pounds, the fee  
is ~~\$308~~ \$309.
- 14 P. For gross weight from 46,001 to 50,000 pounds, the fee  
16 is ~~\$331~~ \$332.
- 18 Q. For gross weight from 50,001 to 54,000 pounds, the fee  
is ~~\$354~~ \$355.

20 **Sec. C-11. 29-A MRSA §509**, as enacted by PL 1993, c. 683,  
22 Pt. A, §2 and affected by Pt. B, §5, is amended to read:

24 **§509. Tractors**

26 **1. Tractors.** The annual fee for the registration of a  
28 tractor must accompany an application for registration and is as  
follows.

30 Tractors equipped with:

- 32 A. Pneumatic tires, 25¢ per horsepower and 25¢ per 100  
pounds of weight;
- 34 B. Solid rubber tires, 25¢ per horsepower and 50¢ per 100  
36 pounds of weight; and
- 38 C. Iron, steel or other hard tires, 25¢ per horsepower and  
80¢ per 100 pounds of weight.

40 The minimum fee is ~~\$2~~ \$3.

42 **2. Tractors used for farming.** The fee for a tractor used  
44 for agricultural purposes or not customarily used on public ways  
is ~~\$2~~ \$3, except as provided in section 510, subsection 1.

46 **3. Old homemade tractors used for farming.** The fee for a  
48 homemade tractor used for agricultural purposes with motor and  
chassis at least 10 years old that has a body capacity of not  
50 more than 1 1/2 cubic yards and that is used exclusively for  
agricultural purposes is ~~\$2~~ \$3. Such a vehicle may not be

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operated on the highway more than 10 miles from the place where the vehicle is customarily kept.

Sec. C-12. 29-A MRSA §513, sub-§2, ¶¶A and B, as enacted by PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 and affected by Pt. B, §5, are amended to read:

A. Class A special mobile equipment must be operated under an annual registration. The fee for a Class A special mobile equipment registration permit is as follows.

- (1) For gross weight from 0 to 54,000 pounds, the fee is as in section 505, subsection 2.
- (2) For gross weight from 54,001 to 60,000 pounds, the fee is \$384 \$385.
- (3) For gross weight from 60,001 to 65,000 pounds, the fee is \$414 \$415.
- (4) For gross weight from 65,001 to 70,000 pounds, the fee is \$444 \$445.
- (5) For gross weight from 70,001 to 75,000 pounds, the fee is \$474 \$475.
- (6) For gross weight from 75,001 to 80,000 pounds, the fee is \$504 \$505.
- (7) For gross weight from 80,001 to 90,000 pounds, the fee is \$564 \$565.

B. The fee for Class B special mobile equipment is \$17 \$18.

Sec. C-13. 29-A MRSA §515, sub-§§1 and 2, as enacted by PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 and affected by Pt. B, §5, are amended to read:

1. **Motorcycle.** A motorcycle or a parking control vehicle is \$18 \$19; and

2. **Moped.** A moped is \$6 \$7.

Sec. C-14. 29-A MRSA §520, sub-§1, as enacted by PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 and affected by Pt. B, §5, is amended to read:

1. **Registration fee.** The annual registration fee for special equipment, based on gross weight, is \$7 \$8 for equipment weighing one to 2,000 pounds; \$12 \$13 for 2,001 to 5,000 pounds; and \$17 \$18 for over 5,000 pounds.

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2           **Sec. C-15. Task force on production and issuance of license plates.**  
The Secretary of State shall convene a task force to study the  
4           production and issuance of license plates. The task force shall  
convene no later than May 15, 1996 and conclude its work no later  
6           November 1, 1996.

8           **1. Membership.** The task force consists of 11 members  
selected as follows.

10           The Chairs of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation  
12           shall appoint 4 members of that committee to serve as task force  
members. Members may continue to serve after their legislative  
14           term of office has expired. At the request of one of their  
appointees, the chairs may appoint another member of the  
16           committee to replace the requesting member on the task force.

18           The Secretary of State shall appoint 2 members representing law  
enforcement: one representing county sheriffs' departments and  
20           one representing municipal police departments.

22           The Chief of the State Police shall designate a state police  
officer to serve as a member.

24           The business manager for the bureau; the director of the public  
26           services division within the Bureau of Motor Vehicles; the  
director of the commercial vehicles division within the bureau;  
28           and an assistant deputy secretary of state serve as ex officio  
members of the task force.

30           The Chairs of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation and  
32           the Secretary of State shall send a list of the people appointed  
to serve on the task force to the Executive Director of the  
34           Legislative Council no later than May 1, 1996.

36           **2. Convening of first meeting; election of chair.** The  
Secretary of State or a designee of the Secretary of State shall  
38           convene the first meeting of the task force no later than May 15,  
1996. The task force shall select a chair from among its members.

40           **3. Staff and resource consultants to the task force.** The  
Secretary of State shall provide staff assistance to the task  
42           force. The supervisor of the Maine State Prison plate shop shall  
serve as a consultant to the task force. The task force may  
44           request assistance with the preparation of any recommended  
46           legislation from the Legislative Council.

48           **4. Purpose of task force.** The task force shall study  
issues relating to the design and production of license plates  
50           and make recommendations to the Legislature for the new general

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COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1195, L.D. 1639

2 plate issue beginning July 1, 1999. In conducting the study the  
task force shall examine the following.

4 A. The task force shall evaluate the existing equipment at  
6 the Warren prison facility, its adequacy for meeting plate  
8 production demand and the costs of overhauling that  
10 equipment prior to a new general issue. The task force  
12 shall examine state-of-the-art technology for in-house  
graphics creation and production of specialty plates. The  
task force shall consider costs of new equipment and the  
impact of various types of equipment on production  
capabilities and on jobs at the prison facility.

14 B. The task force shall consider methods of assigning  
16 unique identifiers to license plates. The task force shall  
18 consider use of a stacked letter system to allow duplication  
of numbers among different types of plates. The task force  
shall make recommendations as to the use of a single  
numbering system or a system that allows duplication.

20 C. The task force shall consider designs for a new general  
22 issue plate to replace the lobster plate design. The task  
24 force shall use the plate design standards of the American  
Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators in developing or  
26 evaluating designs. The task force shall present design  
alternatives to the Joint Standing Committee on  
28 Transportation before making a recommendation on plate  
design.

30 **5. Reimbursement for travel expenses.** Members of the task  
32 force who are Legislators or were Legislators at the time of  
appointment are entitled to reimbursement for travel expenses for  
34 meetings of the task force. Members of the Joint Standing  
Committee on Transportation who participated in meetings  
initiated by the Secretary of State to study license plate  
36 production issues during the period of September 1, 1995 to  
December 31, 1995 are entitled to reimbursement for travel  
38 expenses upon submitting the appropriate expense forms to the  
Executive Director of the Legislative Council.

40 **6. Report.** The task force shall submit a report including  
42 findings, recommendations and proposed legislation to the Joint  
Standing Committee on Transportation and to the Executive  
44 Director of the Legislative Council no later than November 1,  
1996. The task force shall submit legislation to implement its  
46 recommendations to the Revisor of Statutes no later than January  
1, 1997. The report must include a proposed plate design for the  
48 new general issue, recommendations for the registration classes  
required to display the new general issue plates and for the  
50 specialty plates to remain in use concurrent with the new general  
issue.

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**

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2           **Sec. C-16. Effective date.** Those sections of this Part that  
enact Maine Revised Statutes, Title 29-A, section 451, subsection  
4           1-A and section 466 and that amend Title 29-A, section 451,  
subsection 4; and sections 457, 458, 461, 501, 504, 505, 509,  
6           513, 515 and 520 take effect on July 1, 1996.

8

**PART D**

10

**Sec. D-1. Allocation.** The following funds are allocated from  
12           the Highway Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.

14

**1996-97**

16           **SECRETARY OF STATE,  
DEPARTMENT OF THE**

18

**Administration -  
20           Motor Vehicles**

22

Positions - Legislative count (1.0)

24

Personal Services \$18,846

All Other 155,077

26

Capital Expenditures 4,500

28

**TOTAL** 178,423

30

Provides funds for a Clerk Typist III  
position, software modifications and other  
general operating expenses to carry out fuel  
32           tax processing within the Bureau of Motor  
Vehicles.

34

**TRANSPORTATION, DEPARTMENT OF**

36

**Administration and Planning**

38

All Other (178,423)

40

Deallocates funds no longer required for the  
42           reimbursement of the Bureau of Taxation for  
fuel tax processing.

44

**LEGISLATURE**

46

**Task Force on Production  
48           and Issuance of License Plates**

50

All Other 4,000

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COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1195, L.D. 1639

2 Provides funds for travel expenses and  
4 printing costs of the Task Forces on  
Production and Issuance of License Plates.

6  
7 **TOTAL ALLOCATIONS** \$4,000

8  
9 **Sec. D-2. Allocation.** The following funds are allocated from  
10 Other Special Revenue to carry out the purposes of this Act.

12 **1996-97**

14 **FINANCE AUTHORITY OF MAINE**

16 **University of Maine Scholarship  
Fund**

18 All Other (\$54,472)

20 Deallocates funds to reflect the revised  
22 revenue estimate to be generated by this  
program.

24  
25 **Sec. D-3. Appropriation.** The following funds are appropriated  
26 from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.

28 **1996-97**

30 **ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL  
SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF**

32 **Taxation - Bureau of**

34 Positions - Legislative Count (-3.0)  
36 Personal Services (\$91,529)  
All Other (86,894)

38 **TOTAL** (\$178,423)

40 Deappropriates funds and eliminates 2 Clerk  
42 Typist III positions and a Data Entry  
Specialist position as a result of  
44 transferring fuel tax processing to the  
Bureau of Motor Vehicles within the  
46 Department of the Secretary of State.



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COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1195, L.D. 1639

2 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the  
preamble, this Act takes effect when approved, unless otherwise  
indicated.'

4  
6 Further amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any  
nonconsecutive Part letter or section number to read  
consecutively.

8  
10 Further amend the bill by inserting at the end before the  
statement of fact the following:

12 **FISCAL NOTE**

14 **1996-97**

16 **APPROPRIATIONS/ALLOCATIONS**

18	General Fund	(\$178,423)
20	Highway Fund	4,000
22	Other Funds	(54,472)

24 **REVENUES**

26	General Fund	(\$178,423)
28	Highway Fund	932,625
	Other Funds	(54,472)

30  
32 The changes in the administrative fee and contribution  
distribution for University of Maine System plates will reduce  
34 budgeted Highway Fund revenue by \$117,375 in fiscal year  
1996-97. This estimate is based on an original budgeted level of  
36 plate issues, which significantly exceeds the revised projection  
for the number of plates now expected to be issued. Highway Fund  
38 revenue reductions will be approximately \$25,000 annually  
beginning in fiscal year 1997-98 based on a revised estimate of  
plate issues.

40  
42 These changes in the distribution of proceeds from the  
University of Maine System plates also will increase dedicated  
44 revenue to the University of Maine System Scholarship Fund.  
However, in fiscal year 1996-97, the original budgeted amount of  
46 dedicated revenue in this fund exceeds the amount of revenue to  
be generated based on a revised estimate of plate issues, despite  
48 the increase in dedicated revenue as a result of this bill. The  
amount of additional dedicated revenue to be generated by this  
bill is estimated to be \$13,000 annually. The allocations for  
50 the University of Maine Scholarship Fund are adjusted through a

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**

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COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1195, L.D. 1639

2 deallocation of \$54,472 in fiscal year 1996-97 to more accurately  
reflect the revenue to be generated by this program.

4 The Bureau of Motor Vehicles within the Department of the  
Secretary of State will require additional Highway Fund  
6 allocations of \$1,320,345 and \$1,189,598 in fiscal years 1998-99  
and 1999-2000, respectively, for the new general issue of  
8 registration plates, effective July 1, 1999. These allocations  
include funds for 7 Plate Shop Laborers, 3 Stockroom Laborers, 4  
10 Public Service Clerk Typists, plate materials, advertising and  
other miscellaneous costs and supplies.

12 The \$1.00 increase for most motor vehicle registrations will  
14 take effect on July 1, 1996 and increase Highway Fund revenue by  
\$1,050,000 annually beginning in fiscal year 1996-97.

16 The fee of \$15 for a reserved number plate during the first  
18 year of issue will result in a one-time increase of Highway Fund  
revenue of approximately \$675,000 in fiscal year 1998-99.

20 This bill also includes a Highway Fund allocation of \$4,000  
22 in fiscal year 1996-97 for the Legislature to provide funds for  
travel expenses of Legislative members and printing costs of the  
24 Task Force on Production and Issuance of License Plates.

26 The additional costs associated with providing staff  
assistance to the Task Force on Production and Issuance of  
28 License Plates can be absorbed by the Department of the Secretary  
of State utilizing existing budgeted resources.

30 The Bureau of Motor Vehicles within the Department of the  
32 Secretary of State will require a Highway Fund allocation of  
\$178,423 in fiscal year 1996-97 for the transfer of fuel tax  
34 processing to the Bureau of Motor Vehicles from the Bureau of  
Taxation. This allocation provides funds for the transfer of a  
36 Clerk Typist III position and software modifications to carry out  
this new responsibility.

38 This bill also includes a Highway Fund deallocation of  
40 \$178,423 from the Administration and Planning program within the  
Department of Transportation to reflect the transfer of fuel tax  
42 processing. The Department of Transportation will no longer be  
reimbursing the Bureau of Taxation for services rendered for fuel  
44 tax processing. This also represents a reduction of General Fund  
revenue of \$178,423 in fiscal year 1996-97. The Bureau of  
46 Taxation will realize General Fund savings of \$178,423 in fiscal  
year 1996-97. A General Fund deappropriation is included to  
48 reflect the savings from the transfer of these responsibilities  
out of the bureau.

50

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**

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COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1195, L.D. 1639

2 This bill may also increase the number of traffic  
3 infractions filed in the courts system. The additional workload  
4 and administrative costs associated with the minimal number of  
5 new cases can be absorbed within the budgeted resources of the  
6 Judicial Department. The collection of additional fines may  
7 increase General Fund revenue by minor amounts.'

8

**STATEMENT OF FACT**

10

11 This amendment makes technical changes to the bill. It  
12 removes provisions relating to insurance requirements for  
13 consumer rental vehicles. It adds a Part B to the bill that does  
14 the following.

16

17 It allows the Secretary of State to develop a program to  
18 allow registration agents to issue registrations that do not  
19 involve excise tax and registrations for which the excise tax has  
20 already been paid.

20

21 It defines "registration agent" and allows the Secretary of  
22 State to appoint and revoke appointments for these agents. It  
23 grants rule-making authority to establish requirements for  
24 training, accounting and inventory-control requirements, and for  
25 the electronic transmission of data and funds between  
26 registration agents and the Bureau of Motor Vehicles.

28

29 It allows the Secretary of State to hold certain driver's  
30 license and vehicle registration records as confidential.

30

31 It requires the Secretary of State to comply with the  
32 requirements of the Federal Driver's Privacy Protection Act of  
33 1994 when releasing information from motor vehicle records.

34

35 It amends the information required on the registration  
36 application, specifying that a person's legal name be used on an  
37 application, that the year of manufacture be included and that  
38 only the initial registration application requires the signature  
39 of the owner or owner's legal representative.

40

41 It allows the Secretary of State to establish a multi-year  
42 fleet registration program for registrants with 100 or more  
43 registrations. Municipal excise tax would be paid directly to  
44 the appropriate municipalities.

46

47 It allows an extension of a long-term trailer registration  
48 prior to the registration's expiration.

48

49 It allows for the issuance of the Purple Heart recipient's  
50 special-award plate to the recipient's surviving spouse.

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COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1195, L.D. 1639

2 It allows the State Tax Assessor to delegate certain  
responsibilities relating to the motor carrier fuel tax to the  
4 Bureau of Motor Vehicles.

6 It makes clear that transporter plates may be issued to  
auction businesses for the purpose of transporting vehicles to  
8 and from the auction site.

10 It permits persons to notify the Secretary of State of name  
and address changes by means other than by writing.

12 It makes the addition or attachment of an unauthorized  
symbol or mark to a registration plate a civil violation.

16 It makes consistent and corrects omissions in the OUI laws  
as amended in the First Regular Session of the 117th Legislature.

18 It corrects an omission in the definition of habitual  
20 offender.

22 It requires that a vehicle being added to a fleet with a  
common expiration date receive a prorated excise tax for the  
24 actual number of months in the registration.

26 It adds a Part C to the bill that does the following.

28 It provides for a new general issue of registration plates  
to begin on July 1, 1999 and be completed by December 31, 2000.

30 It repeals language designating the lobster design as the  
32 general issue plate design on July 1, 1999 and allows the  
Secretary of State to purchase a specialty plate rather than  
34 produce the plate at the Maine State Prison when the demand for  
that plate is low.

36 It establishes a program within the Highway Fund to receive  
38 \$1 of each registration fee to be used for expenses relating to  
the production and issuance of license plates.

40 It establishes a moratorium on the issuance of new specialty  
42 license plates until July 1, 1999.

44 It increases the fee for reserving license plate numbers  
effective July 1, 1996.

46 Effective July 1, 1996, it increases motor vehicle  
48 registration fees by \$1 to cover equipment costs and other costs  
associated with a new general issue license plate.

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COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1195, L.D. 1639

2 It creates a task force to study the production and issuance  
of license plates.

4 The amendment adds a Part D to the bill that provides  
6 funding to the task force for travel and production of the  
report. It also adds a fiscal note to the bill.