

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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REPORT C
TRANSPORTATION

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
118TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "C" to H.P. 207, L.D. 260, Bill, "An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Task Force on Production and Issuance of Registration Plates"

Amend the bill in section 1 in subsection 4-A in paragraph D by striking out all of subparagraph (3) (page 1, lines 30 to 31 in L.D.) and inserting in its place the following:

'(3) Black letters or numbers on a white background that includes no illustration.'

Further amend the bill in section 1 in subsection 4-A in paragraph E in the first line (page 1, line 33 in L.D.) by inserting after the following: "devise" the following: 'with the advice of the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over transportation matters.'

Further amend the bill by inserting after section 1 the following:

Sec. 2. PL 1995, c. 645, Pt. C, §15 is amended to read:

Sec. C-15. Task force on production and issuance of license plates.

The Secretary of State shall convene a task force to study the production and issuance of license plates. The task force shall convene no later than May 15, 1996 and conclude its work no later than ~~November 1, 1996~~ December 1, 1998.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

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

The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House shall each appoint 2 members to serve as task force members. ~~Members may continue to serve after their legislative term of office has expired.~~ At the request of one of their appointees, the appointing authority may appoint another member of the committee to replace the requesting member on the task force.

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

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

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

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

2. **Convening of first meeting; election of chair.** The Secretary of State or a designee of the Secretary of State shall 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.

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

4. **Purpose of task force.** The task force shall study issues relating to the design and production of license plates and make recommendations to the Legislature for the new general plate issue beginning July 1, 1999. In conducting the study the task force shall examine the following.

A. The task force shall evaluate the existing equipment at the Warren prison facility, its adequacy for meeting plate production demand and the costs of overhauling that equipment prior to a new general issue. The task force

2 shall examine state-of-the-art technology for in-house
graphics creation and production of specialty plates. The
4 task force shall consider costs of new equipment and the
impact of various types of equipment on production
6 capabilities and on jobs at the prison facility.

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

14 C. The Until November 1, 1996, the task force shall
consider designs for a new general issue plate to replace
16 the lobster plate design. The task force shall use the
plate design standards of the American Association of Motor
18 Vehicle Administrators in developing or evaluating designs.
The task force shall present design alternatives to the
20 Joint Standing Committee on Transportation before making a
recommendation, on or by November 1, 1996, on plate design.

22 D. The task force may consider any other issues related to
24 the production of license plates.

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

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

48 **7. Final recommendations.** The task force shall submit its
50 final recommendations regarding the use of a single numbering

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system or a system that allows duplication to the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation and to the Executive Director of the Legislative Council during the Second Regular Session of the 118th Legislature.

Sec. 3. Allocation. The following funds are allocated from the Highway Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.

	1997-98	1998-99
SECRETARY OF STATE, DEPARTMENT OF THE Administration-Motor Vehicles		
All Other	(\$39,375)	(\$39,375)

Deallocates funds to reflect the savings resulting from the issuance of a white license plate with black letters or numbers and no illustration.

Sec. 4. Transition; retroactivity. Those members of the task force to study the production and issuance of license plates who were appointed pursuant to Public Law 1995, chapter 645, Part C, section 15 continue to serve as members of the task force, except that the 2 legislative members of the task force whose legislative terms have expired must be replaced with new appointees who are members of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House.

This section and those sections of this Act that amend Public Law 1995, chapter 645, Part C, section 15 apply retroactively to November 1, 1996.'

Further amend the bill by inserting at the end before the summary the following:

FISCAL NOTE

	1997-98	1998-99
APPROPRIATIONS/ALLOCATIONS		
Highway Fund	(\$39,375)	(\$39,375)

The Bureau of Motor Vehicles will realize savings of \$39,375 annually in fiscal years 1997-98 and 1998-99, respectively, due

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2 to laminate savings resulting from issuing a license plate with
black letters or numbers on a white background with no
illustration. These amounts are deallocated in this bill.

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6 The unexpended balance of a Highway Fund allocation pursuant
to PL 1995, c. 645 to fund the costs associated with the Task
Force on Production and Issuance of License Plates, which does
8 not lapse but carries forward, is sufficient to meet the
additional costs associated with continuing the task force.'

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SUMMARY

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This amendment is one of 2 minority reports of the Joint
Standing Committee on Transportation.

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18 The amendment requires that the new general issue
registration include only black letters or numbers on a white
background with no illustration.

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22 The amendment also requires the Secretary of State to seek
the advice of the joint standing committee of the Legislature
having jurisdiction over transportation matters when devising a
24 numbering system for the new general issue of registration plates.

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28 The amendment also authorizes the continuation of the Task
Force on Production and Issuance of License Plates, which was
created by Public Law 1995, chapter 645, Part C, section 15,
through the 118th Legislature. Members of the task force shall
30 continue to serve, except that the 2 legislative members whose
legislative terms have expired must be replaced with new
32 appointments by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of
the House. The amendment charges the task force with continuing
34 its study of the equipment and technology used for the production
of license plates and the methods of assigning identifiers to
36 license plates.

38

The amendment also adds a fiscal note to the bill.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT