## MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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## 119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999

Legislative Document

No. 227

H.P. 165

House of Representatives, January 11, 1999

An Act to Further Decriminalize Operating an Unregistered Vehicle.

Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.

JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative THOMPSON of Naples. Cosponsored by Representative DUNLAP of Old Town.

	Can 1 20 A MDCA 9251
§4	Sec. 1. 29-A MRSA §351, as amended by PL 1995, c. 584, Pt. B, is further amended to read:
<b>§</b> 3	51. Registration required
pu	The owner of a vehicle that is operated or remains on a blic way is responsible for registering the vehicle.
	1. Failure to register. A person-commits-a-Class-E-erime
	-that-person vehicle owner who fails to register a vehicle that operated or remains on a public way as provided by this Title.
	mmits:
	A. A civil violation for which a forfeiture of not more than \$50 may be adjudged if the vehicle was registered and
	the registration has been expired for more than 30 days but less than 120 days; or
	B. A Class E crime if the vehicle was not registered or the registration has been expired for 120 days or more.
1-	1-A. Residents required to register. An owner of a vehicle
	o becomes a resident of this State shall register that vehicle this State within 30 days of establishing residency. A-person
	owner who operates or allows a vehicle that is not registered
	accordance with this subsection to remain on a public way mmits-a-Glass-E-erime-pursuant-to violates subsection 1.
-	ministed a crabe is crime particular to <u>reviewed</u> subsection i.
	2. Operating a vehicle with an expired registration. The
	ner or operator of a vehicle stopped by a law enforcement ficer and having a registration that had has expired within <u>the</u>
<u>la</u>	st 30 days must be issued a warning, rather than a summons, in
	form designated by the Chief of the State Police. This warning st state that:
	A. Within 2 business days, the owner or operator must
	register the vehicle;
	D. The ways and projection and the same world
	B. The renewed registration expires on the same month as the previous registration; and
	C. The registration fee is the same as for a full year year's registration.

the Secretary of State may issue a permit in writing to allow:

3. Temporary permit to tow unregistered vehicle. A law enforcement officer or an employee of the bureau designated by

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	A. An unregistered motor vehicle to be towed either by a
2	regular service wrecker or by the use of a towbar; or
4	C. An unregistered trailer or semitrailer with a gross weight of 3,000 pounds or less to be towed, for one trip
6	only, between the points of origin and destination.
8	A permit issued under this subsection is valid for no more than 3
	days, including the date of issuance.
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	3-A. Permit to operate unregistered vehicle. Upon stopping
12	a vehicle with a registration that has been expired for more than
	30 days, a law enforcement officer may issue a permit to the
14	owner or operator of the vehicle to operate the vehicle to the
	owner's residence or to an office of the bureau for the sole
16	purpose of renewal of the registration by the owner.
18	4. Duplicate registration, notification of change in
	location or status. Duplicate registrations are provided in
20	accordance with section 1405. A person to whom a registration
	has been issued must notify the Secretary of State of a change in
22	location or status in accordance with section 1407.
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26	SUMMARY
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	This bill decriminalizes operating an unregistered vehicle
28	when the registration has expired within the last 120 days. This
	bill also clarifies that the owner of the vehicle is responsible
30	for registering a vehicle that is operated on a public way.