

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999

Legislative Document

No. 534

S.P. 180

In Senate, January 19, 1999

An Act to Bring Equity to the Vehicle Excise Tax.

Reference to the Committee on Taxation suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator KILKELLY of Lincoln.

Cosponsored by Representative PIEH of Bremen and Senators: AMERO of Cumberland, CASSIDY of Washington, RUHLIN of Penobscot, CATHCART of Penobscot, KONTOS of Cumberland, RAND of Cumberland, Representatives: BOLDUC of Auburn, GLYNN of South Portland, GOODWIN of Pembroke, JONES of Pittsfield, MacDOUGALL of North Berwick, MURPHY of Kennebunk, PLOWMAN of Hampden, RICHARDSON of Brunswick, STANLEY of Medway, BUMPS of China, ETNIER of Harpswell, KNEELAND of Easton, O'NEAL of Limestone, SKOGLUND of St. George.

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

2
3 Sec. 1. 36 MRSA §1482, sub-§1, ¶C, as amended by PL 1995, c.
4 645, Pt. B, §23 and affected by §24, is further amended to read:

6 C. For the privilege of operating a motor vehicle,
7 including commercial vehicles, as defined in Title 29-A,
8 section 101, subsection 17, paragraph A and special mobile
9 equipment, as defined in Title 29-A, section 101, subsection
10 70, or camper trailer on the public ways, each motor
11 vehicle, other than a stock race car, or each camper trailer
12 to be so operated is subject to excise tax as follows,
13 ~~except as specified in subparagraph (3):~~ a sum equal to 24
14 mills on each dollar of the maker's list purchase price for
15 the first or current year of model, 17 1/2 mills for the 2nd
16 year, 13 1/2 mills for the 3rd year, 10 mills for the 4th
17 year, 6 1/2 mills for the 5th year and 4 mills for the 6th
18 and succeeding years. The minimum tax is \$5 for a motor
19 vehicle other than a bicycle with motor attached, \$2.50 for
20 a bicycle with motor attached, \$15 for a camper trailer
21 other than a tent trailer and \$5 for a tent trailer. The
22 excise tax on a stock race car is \$5.

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

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

32 ~~(3) For commercial vehicles manufactured in model year~~
33 ~~1996 and after, the amount of excise tax due for~~
34 ~~commercial vehicles, as defined in Title 29-A, section~~
35 ~~101, subsection 17, paragraph A and for special mobile~~
36 ~~equipment, as defined in Title 29-A, section 101,~~
37 ~~subsection 70, is based on the purchase price in the~~
38 ~~original year of title rather than on the list price.~~
39 ~~Verification of purchase price for the application of~~
40 ~~excise tax is determined by the initial bill of sale or~~
41 ~~the state sales tax document provided at point of~~
42 ~~purchase. The initial bill of sale is that issued by~~
43 ~~the dealer to the initial purchaser of a new vehicle.~~

44
45 Verification of purchase price for the application of excise
46 tax is determined by the initial bill of sale or the state
47 sales tax document provided at point of purchase. The
48

2 initial bill of sale is that issued by the dealer to the
3 initial purchaser of a new vehicle.

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

8

SUMMARY

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11 This bill changes the method of computing the excise tax
12 that is levied on motor vehicles and campers registered in the
13 State. Current law requires, with the exception of commercial
14 motor vehicles and special mobile equipment, that the excise tax
15 be based upon the maker's list price for the motor vehicle; the
16 excise tax on commercial motor vehicles and special mobile
17 equipment is based on the purchase price.

18

19 This bill requires that the excise tax for all motor
20 vehicles and campers be based upon the purchase price of the
21 vehicle. Either the original bill of sale or the state sales tax
22 document may be used to certify the purchase price. The bill
23 repeals the section of law dealing with the computation of excise
24 taxes on commercial motor vehicles since all motor vehicles would
25 be taxed in the same manner under this bill.

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