

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999

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Legislative Document

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H.P. 565

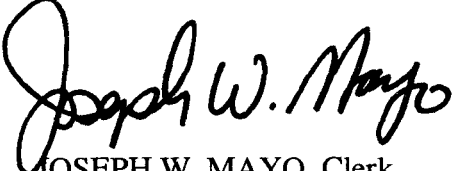
House of Representatives, January 28, 1999

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**An Act to Limit the Storage Fee Charged for Impounded Vehicles.**

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Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.

  
JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative SKOGLUND of St. George.  
Cosponsored by Representatives: HATCH of Skowhegan, VOLENIK of Brooklin, Senator:  
KILKELLY of Lincoln.

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

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4       **Sec. 1. 29-A MRSA §105, sub-§3**, as enacted by PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 and affected by Pt. B, §5, is amended to read:

6           **3. Impoundment.** When a motor vehicle is operated by a  
8 person not able to produce a certificate of registration, or by a  
10 person other than the person in whose name the vehicle is  
12 registered and the operator is unable to present reasonable  
14 evidence of authority to operate that vehicle, an officer may  
16 impound and hold that vehicle until that vehicle is claimed by  
the registered owner or until the registered owner verifies the  
authority of the operator. ~~The registered owner must be notified  
immediately of the impoundment~~ The officer shall follow the  
notification requirements and provisions for payment of towing  
and storage costs in section 2422.

18       **Sec. 2. 29-A MRSA §1857**, as enacted by PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 and affected by Pt. B, §5, is amended to read:

20       **§1857. Limits**

22           If the inquiry to the Secretary of State required by section  
24 1854 or the notice required by section 1855 is made more than 30  
26 days after receipt of a vehicle described in section 1851, the  
28 person holding the vehicle may not collect more than 30 days of  
storage fees. For vehicles that are abandoned according to  
section 1852 Daily daily storage charges must be reasonable and  
total storage charges may not exceed \$600 for a 30-day period.  
For vehicles that are towed under this subchapter but not  
abandoned, the notification requirements and provisions for  
payment of towing and storage costs in section 2422 apply.

34       **Sec. 3. 29-A MRSA §2069, sub-§5**, as enacted by PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 and affected by Pt. B, §5, is amended to read:

36           **5. Notification.** Upon removal of a vehicle in accordance  
38 with this section, the notification requirements and provisions  
40 for payment of towing and storage costs in ~~chapter 15, subchapter  
III~~ section 2422 apply.

42       **Sec. 4. 29-A MRSA §2422, sub-§§2 and 3**, as enacted by PL 1997, c. 417, §1, are amended to read:

44           **2. Storage.** If a motor vehicle is seized, it must be held  
46 in secure storage by the seizing agency or at the direction of  
48 the arresting law enforcement officer. The agency or law  
enforcement officer shall notify the owner of the car of the  
location of the vehicle within 24 hours of the impoundment.

50           **3. Release of vehicle.** The motor vehicle may be released  
52 after at least an 8-hour period and payment of any towing and

2 storage fees. The towing company may not charge more than the  
3 usual towing fee. The storage fee may not exceed \$25 a day and a  
4 maximum of \$100 for storage. If the owner does not retrieve the  
5 motor vehicle, within 30 days following notification, the vehicle  
6 may be forfeited.

## 8 SUMMARY

10 This bill requires agencies or law enforcement officers who  
11 impound a motor vehicle to notify the owner of the motor vehicle  
12 of the location of the vehicle, within 24 hours prohibits the  
13 towing fee from being more than a normal towing fee and limits  
14 the storage fee to \$25 per day to a total of \$100 maximum. If  
15 the owner does not claim the motor vehicle within 30 days of  
16 notice, the vehicle may be forfeited.