

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999

Legislative Document

No. 896

H.P. 646

House of Representatives, February 2, 1999

An Act to Require Identification for Hearing Impaired Persons.

Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph W. Mayo".

JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative SNOWE-MELLO of Poland. (By Request)
Cosponsored by Senator DOUGLASS of Androscoggin and
Representatives: BOUFFARD of Lewiston, BROOKS of Winterport, COLLINS of Wells,
FOSTER of Gray, MacDOUGALL of North Berwick, O'BRIEN of Augusta, PLOWMAN of
Hampden, SHIELDS of Auburn.

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

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4 **Sec. 1. 29-A MRSA §521, sub-§6-A** is enacted to read:

6 **6-A. Placards for hearing-impaired persons.** The Secretary
8 of State shall issue a placard to a person who provides medical
10 documentation of a hearing impairment. The placard must identify
12 the driver as hearing impaired in a way that is clearly visible
14 to other drivers.

16 **Sec. 2. 29-A MRSA §1404**, as amended by PL 1997, c. 617, §1,
18 is amended to read:

20 **§1404. Coded licenses**

22 The Secretary of State shall provide that a license issued
24 to:

26 1. **Under 21.** A person less than 21 years of age bears a
28 distinctive color code; and

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

42 The Secretary of State may, at the request of a licensee, remove
44 the coded notation from the license of a person convicted for a
46 first operating-under-the-influence offense as defined in section
48 2453, subsection 2 after 6 years from the date of the conviction
50 if the person has not been convicted or adjudicated of the
 offense of speeding more than 15 miles per hour over the maximum
 speed limit or any offense described under section 2551,
 subsection 1 or had a license suspended or revoked within that
 6-year period; and

 3. **Hearing impaired.** A person who has a medically
documented hearing impairment bears a coded notation of that fact.

42 **Sec. 3. 29-A MRSA §1410, sub-§2, ¶D**, as enacted by PL 1997, c.
44 437, §40, is amended to read:

46 D. Social security number; and

48 **Sec. 4. 29-A MRSA §1410, sub-§2, ¶D-1** is enacted to read:

50 D-1. A distinctive code indicating a hearing impairment if
 the applicant provides medical documentation of a hearing
 impairment; and

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SUMMARY

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This bill requires the Secretary of State to denote a hearing impairment on a driver's license or state nondriver identification card and to issue a placard indicating that a driver is hearing impaired if the hearing-impaired person provides the Secretary of State with medical documentation of the impairment.

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