



119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999

Legislative Document

No. 1076

S.P. 375

In Senate, February 9, 1999

An Act to Simplify the Process of Claiming Abandoned Vehicles.

Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.

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JOY J. O'BRIEN Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator LIBBY of York. Cosponsored by Representative McALEVEY of Waterboro.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows: 2 Sec. 1. 29-A MRSA §1854, sub-§4, as enacted by PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 and affected by Pt. B, §5, is repealed and the 4 following enacted in its place: 6 4. No record. If the Secretary of State finds no record of the vehicle, the owner of the premises where the vehicle is 8 located may seek ownership of the vehicle under section 1856. 10 Sec. 2. 29-A MRSA §1855, sub-§2, as enacted by PL 1993, c. 12 683, Pt. A, §2 and affected by Pt. B, §5, is amended to read: 14 2. Contents; demand. The notice must clearly describe the vehicle and must give the vehicle's location and the charges for 16 towing, storage fee and authorized repair work. The notice must state that if the owner or lienholder has does not properly 18 retrieved retrieve the vehicle and paid pay all reasonable charges for towing, storage and authorized repair work within-14 20 days-of upon receipt of the notice, ownership of the vehicle will pass to the owner of the premises where the vehicle is located. 22 The person providing the notice is not required to include in the notice written authorization for the repairs signed by the 24 customer or documentation of the date of completion of any authorized repair work. 26 Sec. 3. 29-A MRSA §1855, sub-§5, as enacted by PL 1993, c. 28 683, Pt. A, $\S2$ and affected by Pt. B, $\S5$, is repealed. Sec. 4. 29-A MRSA §1856, sub-§1, as enacted by PL 1993, c. 30 683, Pt. A, §2 and affected by Pt. B, §5, is amended to read: 32 1. Evidence of compliance. A person who has complied with 34 section 1854 or 1855 shall present evidence of compliance to the Secretary of State immediately-after-the-14-day-notice-period. The Secretary of State may not issue a letter of ownership or 36 certificate of title until at least 30 days after the date on which the person first has possession of and control over the 38 vehicle. 40 42 **SUMMARY** 44 This bill eliminates current provisions in law pertaining to 46 abandoned vehicles. The bill removes requirements for publishing a notice if the owner of an abandoned vehicle is unknown and 48 waiting 14 days before seeking a change in ownership from the Secretary of State. It also deletes a requirement for sending notice by certified mail to a known owner of an abandoned 50

vehicle, requiring instead that the notice simply be mailed. The
person mailing the notice would no longer be required to wait 14 days after mailing the notice to seek a change in ownership from
the Secretary of State.