

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)



119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999

Legislative Document

No. 1959

H.P. 1361

House of Representatives, March 23, 1999

**An Act to Require Payment of the Excise Tax for First-time Vehicle
Registration Only.**

Reference to the Committee on Taxation 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.
Cosponsored by Senator DAVIS of Piscataquis and
Representatives: FOSTER of Gray, MacDOUGALL of North Berwick, MACK of Standish,
TRAHAN of Waldoboro, Senator: BENNETT of Oxford.

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

2
4 **Sec. 1. 36 MRSA §1481, sub-§2**, as amended by PL 1981, c. 230,
is repealed.

6 **Sec. 2. 36 MRSA §1482, sub-§1, ¶C**, as amended by PL 1995, c.
8 645, Pt. B, §23 and affected by §24, is further amended to read:

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

26 (1) On new registrations of automobiles, trucks and
28 truck tractors, the excise tax payment must be made
30 prior to registration and, for those vehicles covered
under this subsection, is for a one-year period from
the date of registration.

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

38 ~~(3) For commercial vehicles manufactured in model year~~
40 ~~1996 and after, the amount of excise tax due for~~
42 ~~commercial vehicles, as defined in Title 29-A, section~~
44 ~~101, subsection 17, paragraph A and for special mobile~~
46 ~~equipment, as defined in Title 29-A, section 101,~~
48 ~~subsection 70, is based on the purchase price in the~~
original year of title rather than on the list price.
Verification of purchase price for the application of
excise tax is determined by the initial bill of sale or
the state sales tax document provided at point of
purchase. The initial bill of sale is that issued by
the dealer to the initial purchaser of a new vehicle.

2 Verification of purchase price for the application of excise
3 tax is determined by the initial bill of sale or the state
4 sales tax document provided at point of purchase. The
5 initial bill of sale is that issued by the dealer to the
6 initial purchaser of a new vehicle.

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

10 **Sec. 3. 36 MRSA §1482, sub-§1-A** is enacted to read:

11 **1-A. Excise tax only on first registrations of certain**
12 **motor vehicles. For the privilege of operating a motor vehicle**
13 **on the public ways, except for a vehicle identified in subsection**
14 **1, paragraph C, a registrant shall pay the excise tax only when**
15 **registering the motor vehicle, whether new or used, for the first**
16 **time; subsequent registrations of the same motor vehicle by the**
17 **same person are not subject to the excise tax. The amount of**
18 **excise tax due at a new registration is calculated using the**
19 **formula as set out in subsection 1, paragraph C.**

20 **Sec. 4. 36 MRSA §1482, sub-§2**, as amended by PL 1991, c. 846,
21 §16, is further amended to read:

22 **2. Tax 1/2 during certain periods.** The excise tax levied in
23 this section shall-be is 1/2 of the sum named in subsection 1
24 from November 1st to the last day of February, except for:

25 **A.** The excise tax levied in this section on a farm motor
26 truck having 2 or 3 axles, when such trucks are used
27 primarily for transportation of agricultural produce grown
28 by the owner on his the owner's farm or farms, shall-be-the
29 is 1/2 the annual amount during the last 6 months of the
30 registration year; and

31 **B.** The excise tax levied in this section on ~~automobiles,~~
32 ~~camper-trailers, trucks and truck tractors~~ motor vehicles
33 identified in subsection 1, paragraph C is, during the last
34 4 months of a registration year, 1/2 the sum named in
35 subsection 1, paragraph C.

36 This subsection does not apply to those vehicles covered under
37 subsection 1-A.

38 **Sec. 5. 36 MRSA §1482, sub-§4**, as amended by PL 1997, c. 200,
39 §1, is repealed.

SUMMARY

2

4 This bill makes the following changes to the excise tax on
4 motor vehicles.

6

8 1. The excise tax for a new or used vehicle is based upon
8 the purchase price of the vehicle, as evidenced by the bill of
8 sale or the sales tax document instead of on the maker's list
10 price. This is the current practice for a commercial vehicle.

10

12 2. Except for a certain vehicle, such as a commercial
12 vehicle or a motor home, the excise tax is due only once, when a
14 person registers the vehicle. If that person remains the owner
14 of the vehicle, the person is required to continue to register
the vehicle, but no further excise tax is due.