

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-1999

Legislative Document

No. 2332

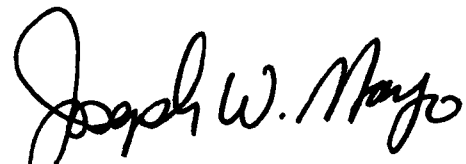
H.P. 1663

House of Representatives, December 29, 1999

**An Act Concerning Motor Vehicle Registration and Title Fees for
Certain Veterans' License Plates.**

Reported by Representative TUTTLE for the Committee to Study Standardized Periods of Military Service and Other Matters Related to the Award of State of Maine Veterans' Benefits pursuant to Resolve 1999, chapter 78.

Received by the Clerk of the House on December 27, 1999. Referred to the Committee on Transportation pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 218.


JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

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

2

Sec. 1. 29-A MRSA §523, sub-§3, as enacted by PL 1993, c. 683,
4 Pt. A, §2 and affected by Pt. B, §5, is amended to read:

6 **3. Special veterans registration plates.** The Secretary of
State, on application and upon evidence of payment of the excise
8 tax required by Title 36, section 1482, ~~the registration fee~~
~~required by section 501 and a one-time additional fee of \$5 and a~~
10 reduced registration fee of \$5 annually, shall issue a
registration certificate and a set of special veterans
12 registration plates to be used in lieu of regular registration
plates to any person who has served in the United States Armed
14 Forces and who has been honorably discharged. If a veteran is
the primary driver of 2 vehicles, the Secretary of State may
16 issue in accordance with this section a set of special veterans
registration plates for each vehicle.

18

Each application must be accompanied by the applicant's Armed
20 Forces Report of Transfer or Discharge, DD Form 214, or
certification from the United States Veterans Administration or
22 the appropriate branch of the United States Armed Forces
verifying the applicant's military service and honorable
24 discharge.

26 All surplus revenue collected for issuance of the special
registration plates is retained by the Secretary of State to
28 maintain and support this program.

30 **Sec. 2. 29-A MRSA §524, sub-§2**, as amended by PL 1997, c. 31,
§1, is further amended to read:

32

2. Former prisoners of war; special license plates. The
34 Secretary of State, on application and upon evidence of payment
of the excise tax required by Title 36, section 1482, and in
36 accordance with the provisions of section 603, subsection 5,
shall issue a registration certificate and set of special
38 designating plates to be used in lieu of regular registration
plates to any civilian citizen of the United States who was
40 interned as a prisoner of war and to any person who served in the
United States Armed Forces and who was a prisoner of war at any
42 time during tenure of service, or the surviving spouse of a
former prisoner of war who is deceased, when that application is
44 accompanied by a copy of the appropriate military form or other
official form issued by the Federal Government certifying that
46 the person is a former prisoner of war. This special license
plate is issued specifically to former prisoners of war and their
48 spouses and the privilege of using the special plate is
transferable only on the death of the former prisoner of war to
50 the former prisoner's spouse. Upon the death of the former

2 prisoner of war, the surviving spouse may retain and display the
special license plate. Upon remarriage, the surviving spouse may
4 not use the special license plate on a motor vehicle, but may
retain it as a keepsake. Upon the death of the surviving spouse,
6 the family may retain the special license plate, but not use it
on a motor vehicle.

8 These special designating plates must be of a design as
determined by the Secretary of State that is unique and not
10 duplicated by any other design.

12 **Sec. 3. 29-A MRSA §524, sub-§3,** as enacted by PL 1993, c. 683,
Pt. A, §2 and affected by Pt. B, §5, is amended to read:

14 **3. Pearl Harbor survivors; special license plates.** The
16 Secretary of State, on application and upon evidence of payment
of the excise tax required by Title 36, section 1482, and in
18 accordance with the provisions of section 603, subsection 5,
shall issue a registration certificate and set of special
20 designating plates to be used in lieu of regular registration
plates to any person who served in the United States Armed Forces
22 and who was stationed at Pearl Harbor, Oahu, Hawaii during the
attack by Japanese forces on December 7, 1941, when that
24 application is accompanied by appropriate military certification
verifying the applicant's service at Pearl Harbor during the
26 attack. This special license plate is issued specifically to
Pearl Harbor survivors and the privilege of using the special
28 plate is not transferable.

30 These special designating plates must be of a design as
determined by the Secretary of State.

32 **Sec. 4. 29-A MRSA §524, sub-§4,** as amended by PL 1995, c. 645,
34 Pt. B, §11, is further amended to read:

36 **4. Purple Heart medal recipients; special license plates.**
The Secretary of State, on application and upon evidence of
38 payment of the excise tax required by Title 36, section 1482, ~~the~~
~~registration--fee--required--by--section--501--and--a--one-time~~
40 ~~additional-fee-of-\$10~~ and in accordance with the provisions of
section 603, subsection 5, shall issue a registration certificate
42 and a set of Purple Heart registration plates, to be used in lieu
of regular registration plates, to a person who is a Purple Heart
44 medal recipient. ~~The-one-time-additional-fee-of-\$10-is-credited~~
~~to-the-Highway-Fund-for-administrative-and-production-costs.~~

46 An application for Purple Heart plates must be accompanied by
48 proof that the applicant has been awarded the Purple Heart
medal. The Secretary of State shall verify the documentation

2 presented by the applicant. Misrepresentation of documents is in
violation of section 2103, subsection 5.

4 The Secretary of State may only issue Purple Heart plates for
display on an automobile or pickup truck. A Purple Heart
6 recipient may be issued Purple Heart plates for no more than 2
vehicles.

8
10 The surviving spouse of a Purple Heart recipient issued plates in
accordance with this subsection may retain and display the Purple
Heart plates as long as the surviving spouse remains unmarried.
12 Upon remarriage, the surviving spouse may not use the Purple
Heart plates on a motor vehicle, but may retain them as a
14 keepsake. Upon the death of the surviving spouse, the family may
retain the Purple Heart plates, but may not use them on a motor
16 vehicle.

18 The Secretary of State shall determine the design of the Purple
Heart plate. Upon request and as provided by section 453, the
20 Secretary of State shall issue Purple Heart plates that are also
vanity plates. Purple Heart vanity plates are issued in
22 accordance with this section and section 453. The annual service
fee of \$15 for vanity plates is credited to the Highway Fund.

24
26 A Purple Heart recipient or the surviving spouse of a Purple
Heart recipient, who does not operate a motor vehicle or register
a motor vehicle and who otherwise qualifies for the issuance of
28 special Purple Heart registration plates may apply to the
Secretary of State for a special single plate recognizing that
30 award.

32 The Secretary of State shall design and identify these single
plates for recognition purposes only. Single Purple Heart plates
34 may not be attached to a motor vehicle. Only one plate may be
issued to each recipient and a one-time fee of \$5 charged.

36
38 The Secretary of State shall begin issuing Purple Heart plates in
accordance with this subsection no later than November 1, 1995.

40 SUMMARY

42
44 This bill implements one of the recommendations of the
Committee to Study Standardized Periods of Military Service and
Other Matters Related to the Award of State of Maine Veterans'
46 Benefits. It reduces from \$23 to \$5 the annual registration fee
paid by honorably discharged veterans who use the special
48 veterans registration plates in lieu of regular registration
plates. The bill also clarifies that any qualified veteran who
50 obtains the Purple Heart medal recipient plate, the Pearl Harbor

2 survivor plate or the former prisoner of war plate is exempt from paying either an annual registration fee or a title fee for the privilege of acquiring and displaying these special plates.