

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2000

Legislative Document

No. 2649

H.P. 1904

House of Representatives, March 23, 2000

An Act to Allow Registration of Low-speed Vehicles.

(AFTER DEADLINE)

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 205.

Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph W. Mayo".

JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative DUDLEY of Portland.
Cosponsored by Senator LIBBY of York and
Representatives: CAMPBELL of Holden, GREEN of Monmouth, SHIAH of Bowdoinham,
VOLENIK of Brooklin, WATSON of Farmingdale.

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

Sec. 1. 29-A MRSA §101, sub-§32-A is enacted to read:

32-A. Low-speed vehicle. "Low-speed vehicle" means a 4-wheeled automobile that is able to attain a speed of at least 20 miles per hour but not more than 25 miles per hour and does not exceed 1800 pounds in unloaded weight. "Low-speed vehicle" does not include an ATV as defined in Title 12, section 7851. A low-speed vehicle must be originally manufactured and maintained in accordance with the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards as a low-speed vehicle pursuant to 49 Code of Federal Regulations, 571.500 (1998).

Sec. 2. 29-A MRSA §501, sub-§11 is enacted to read:

11. Low-speed vehicle. Notwithstanding subsection 1, the Secretary of State, on application and upon payment of excise tax required by Title 36, section 1482, shall issue a registration certificate and a set of plates to a low-speed vehicle. The annual registration fee for a low-speed vehicle is \$19. A low-speed vehicle must be issued a special plate with the words "low speed" instead of "Vacationland."

Sec. 3. 29-A MRSA §2089 is enacted to read:

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§2089. Low-speed vehicles

1. Operation. Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, a low-speed vehicle may be operated on a public way only if the posted speed limit is 35 miles per hour or less. A low-speed vehicle may cross a public way at an intersection where the posted speed limit is more than 35 miles per hour.

2. Municipal control. In accordance with section 102, a municipality may prohibit the operation of a low-speed vehicle on any public way under its jurisdiction if the governing body of the municipality determines that the prohibition is necessary in the interest of safety.

3. State control. The department may prohibit the operation of a low-speed vehicle on any public way under its jurisdiction if it determines that the prohibition is necessary in the interest of safety.

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SUMMARY

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This bill creates a new registration for motor vehicles called "low-speed vehicles," which are motor vehicles that can not exceed 25 miles per hour or be operated on a public way with a posted speed limit of more than 35 miles per hour.