

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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123rd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2008

Legislative Document

No. 2313

H.P. 1673

House of Representatives, April 9, 2008

An Act To Keep Bridges Safe

Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.

Millicent M. MacFarland

MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND

Clerk

Presented by Representative MARLEY of Portland. (GOVERNOR'S BILL)
Cosponsored by Senator SAVAGE of Knox and
Representatives: BARSTOW of Gorham, CAMPBELL of Newfield, CAREY of Lewiston,
CEBRA of Naples, CROCKETT of Augusta, Speaker CUMMINGS of Portland, FAIRCLOTH
of Bangor, FISCHER of Presque Isle, FISHER of Brewer, HOGAN of Old Orchard Beach,
KOFFMAN of Bar Harbor, MAZUREK of Rockland, PEOPLES of Westbrook, PERCY of
Phippsburg, PINGREE of North Haven, ROSEN of Bucksport, THERIAULT of Madawaska,
WALKER of Lincolnville, Senators: DAMON of Hancock, DOW of Lincoln, President
EDMONDS of Cumberland, GOOLEY of Franklin, MARTIN of Aroostook, MILLS of
Somerset, MITCHELL of Kennebec, PERRY of Penobscot, TURNER of Cumberland.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 29-A MRSA §453, sub-§2**, as enacted by PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 and
3 affected by Pt. B, §5, is amended to read:

4 **2. Fee.** The annual service fee for a vanity registration plate is ~~\$15~~ \$25 in addition to
5 the regular motor vehicle registration fee. ~~The Fifteen dollars of the~~ service fee must be
6 credited to the General Highway Fund. A sum sufficient to defray the cost of this
7 program must be allocated annually from the General Highway Fund.

8 Beginning July 1, 2009, \$10 of the service fee must be transferred by the Treasurer of
9 State to the TransCap Trust Fund established by Title 30-A, section 6006-G.

10 **Sec. 2. 29-A MRSA §501, sub-§1**, as amended by PL 2007, c. 383, §7, is further
11 amended to read:

12 **1. Automobiles; pickup trucks.** The fee for an automobile, pickup truck or sport
13 utility vehicle used for the conveyance of passengers or interchangeably for passengers or
14 property is ~~\$25~~ \$35.

15 An automobile or sport utility vehicle used for the conveyance of passengers or property
16 is a "combination" vehicle and may be issued a special plate with the word "combination"
17 instead of "Vacationland." A passenger vehicle used under contract with the State, a
18 municipality or a school district to transport students must be designated as
19 "combination." A vehicle owned or operated by parents or legal guardians is exempt
20 from this subsection.

21 Commercial plates may not be issued for or displayed on an automobile.

22 A sport utility vehicle may be registered either as an automobile or a truck. A sport
23 utility vehicle with a gross vehicle weight or combined gross vehicle weight in excess of
24 10,000 pounds and used in the furtherance of a commercial enterprise must be registered
25 as a truck according to its actual gross weight as provided in section 504.

26 The gross weight of a pickup truck registered as provided by this subsection may not
27 exceed 6,000 pounds. An owner of a pickup truck who operates the pickup truck with a
28 gross weight in excess of 6,000 pounds or the pickup truck drawing a semitrailer with a
29 combined gross weight in excess of 6,000 pounds must register the truck as provided in
30 section 504.

31 A combination of vehicles consisting of a pickup truck as defined in section 101,
32 subsection 55 and a semitrailer with a registered weight of 2,000 pounds or less may be
33 operated at the combined gross weight of the pickup truck and the semitrailer.

34 Beginning July 1, 2009, \$10 of the fee must be transferred by the Treasurer of State to the
35 TransCap Trust Fund established by Title 30-A, section 6006-G.

36 **Sec. 3. 29-A MRSA §504, sub-§1, ¶A**, as amended by PL 1999, c. 790, Pt. C, §8
37 and affected by §19, is further amended to read:

38 A. For gross weight from 0 to 6,000 pounds, the fee is ~~\$25~~ \$35.

1 Beginning July 1, 2009, \$10 of the fee must be transferred by the Treasurer of State
2 to the TransCap Trust Fund established by Title 30-A, section 6006-G.

3 **Sec. 4. 29-A MRSA §603, sub-§1**, as amended by PL 2001, c. 440, Pt. C, §1, is
4 further amended to read:

5 **1. Fee of \$33.** A fee of ~~\$23~~ \$33 must be paid to the Secretary of State for the
6 following:

- 7 A. A report of a search of the records of the Bureau of Motor Vehicles for each
8 name or identification number;
- 9 B. Filing an application for a first certificate of title, including security interest;
- 10 C. Filing notice of a security interest after the first certificate of title has been
11 issued;
- 12 D. A certificate of title after a transfer;
- 13 E. A certificate of salvage;
- 14 F. A corrected certificate of title or salvage;
- 15 G. A duplicate certificate; or
- 16 H. Assignment of a new vehicle identification number.

17 Beginning July 1, 2009, \$10 of the fee must be transferred by the Treasurer of State to the
18 TransCap Trust Fund established by Title 30-A, section 6006-G.

19 For a person who possesses a trailer or semitrailer registration pursuant to section 512,
20 subsection 3, the fee is \$18.

21 **Sec. 5. Authorization to issue TransCap Trust Fund revenue bonds for**
22 **bridges.** Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Maine Municipal Bond Bank,
23 at the request of the Department of Transportation, is authorized to issue TransCap Trust
24 Fund revenue bonds as provided in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 30-A, section 6006-
25 G from time to time in amounts that in total do not exceed \$160,000,000 from the
26 effective date of this bill to fiscal year 2012-13 for the purpose of making capital
27 improvements to bridges and minor spans on or over public ways in the State. This
28 section does not limit the ability to authorize additional TransCap Trust Fund revenue
29 bonds for additional bridge needs or any other eligible purpose.

30 **Sec. 6. Bridge innovation and composites initiative.** The Department of
31 Transportation, working with the University of Maine, shall implement a bridge
32 innovation and composites initiative. This initiative seeks to expand the use of composite
33 technologies in bridge maintenance and capital applications, expand markets and research
34 for transportation-related uses of composites, use technology and products to inspect and
35 extend the life of bridges and bridge components and reduce reliance on fossil fuels in the
36 content or the production of bridge components. The initiative also seeks to develop
37 materials, components and delivery models that expedite the design, rehabilitation and
38 construction of bridges, reduce costs and reduce the impact on the traveling public. The
39 delivery models may use a composite content scale and other standards to provide

1 incentives to meet the objectives of this initiative. As used in this section, "bridge"
2 includes minor spans.

3 **SUMMARY**

4 This bill provides the revenue to support the issuance of the TransCap Trust Fund
5 revenue bonds authorized in this bill. This bill increases the registration fee for
6 noncommercial vehicles by \$10 to \$35 per year; increases the registration fee for
7 commercial motor vehicles weighing less than 6,000 pounds by \$10 to \$35 per year;
8 increases the title fee by \$10 to \$33 per year; and increases the vanity plate fee by \$10 to
9 \$25 per year. The bill transfers the amounts raised by the fee adjustments to the
10 TransCap Trust Fund at the Maine Municipal Bond Bank.

11 The bill also authorizes the Maine Municipal Bond Bank, at the request of the
12 Department of Transportation, to issue \$160,000,000 in TransCap Trust Fund revenue
13 bonds through fiscal year 2012-13 for the purpose of making capital improvements to
14 bridges.

15 The bill also establishes a bridge innovation and composites initiative. The
16 Department of Transportation, working with the University of Maine, shall seek to
17 expand the use of composite technologies in bridge maintenance and capital applications,
18 use technology and products to inspect and extend the life of bridges and develop
19 delivery models that expedite the design, rehabilitation and construction of bridges,
20 reduce costs and reduce the impact on the traveling public.