

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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125th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2011

Legislative Document

No. 27

H.P. 19

House of Representatives, January 4, 2011

An Act Concerning Maine Veterans License Plates

Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Heather J.R. Priest".

HEATHER J.R. PRIEST
Clerk

Presented by Representative McKANE of Newcastle.
Cosponsored by Senator TRAHAN of Lincoln and
Representatives: CEBRA of Naples, COTTA of China, DAVIS of Sangerville, FREDETTE of
Newport, MORISSETTE of Winslow, SANDERSON of Chelsea, SARTY of Denmark,
WEAVER of York.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 29-A MRSA §523, sub-§3**, as amended by PL 2009, c. 80, §1, is further
3 amended to read:

4 **3. Special veterans registration plates.** The Secretary of State, on application and
5 evidence of payment of the excise tax required by Title 36, section 1482 and the
6 registration fee required by section 501, shall issue a registration certificate and a set of
7 special veterans registration plates to be used in lieu of regular registration plates for a
8 vehicle with a registered gross weight of not more than 10,000 pounds to any person who
9 has served in the United States Armed Forces and who has been honorably discharged or
10 to a person who has served in the United States Armed Forces for at least 3 years and
11 continues to serve. If a person who qualifies for a special veterans registration plate
12 under this subsection is the primary driver of 3 vehicles, the Secretary of State may issue
13 in accordance with this section a set of special veterans registration plates for each
14 vehicle.

15 ~~Each~~ An initial application must be accompanied by the applicant's Armed Forces Report
16 of Transfer or Discharge, DD Form 214 or other Department of Defense form or military
17 certification indicating military service that the Secretary of State approves, certification
18 from the United States Veterans Administration or the appropriate branch of the United
19 States Armed Forces verifying the applicant's military service and honorable discharge, or
20 a letter from the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, Bureau
21 of Maine Veterans' Services verifying active duty military service and length of service.
22 The Secretary of State shall keep copies of accepted documentation as a record of proof
23 of veteran status on file to be used for subsequent applications by the same applicant.

24 The Secretary of State shall recall a special veterans registration plate of a recipient who
25 has been less than honorably discharged from the United States Armed Forces.

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

28 The surviving spouse of a special veteran plate recipient issued plates in accordance with
29 this subsection may retain and display the special veteran plates as long as the surviving
30 spouse remains unmarried. Upon remarriage, the surviving spouse may not use the
31 special veteran plates on a motor vehicle, but may retain them as a keepsake. Upon the
32 death of the surviving spouse, the family may retain the special veteran plates, but may
33 not use them on a motor vehicle.

34 The Secretary of State may issue a special disability registration plate for veterans in
35 accordance with section 521, subsections 1, 5, 7 and 9. The special disability registration
36 plate for veterans must bear the International Symbol of Access.

37 The Secretary of State may issue a set of special veterans registration plates when the
38 qualifying veteran is the primary driver of a company-owned vehicle if:

39 A. The company is owned solely by a veteran who qualifies for a veteran plate under
40 this section;

41 B. The vehicle is leased by a veteran who qualifies for the veteran plate under this
42 subsection; or

1 C. The vehicle is leased by the employer of a veteran who qualifies for the veteran
2 plate and the employer has assigned the vehicle exclusively to the veteran. The
3 employer must attest in writing that the veteran will have exclusive use of the vehicle
4 and agrees to the display of the special veteran plate.

5 **Sec. 2. 29-A MRSA §523, sub-§3-A**, as amended by PL 2009, c. 80, §2, is
6 further amended to read:

7 **3-A. Motorcycle plates; veterans.** In addition to any plate issued pursuant to
8 subsection 3, the Secretary of State, on application and evidence of payment of the excise
9 tax required by Title 36, section 1482, the registration fee required by section 515,
10 subsection 1 and a one-time additional fee of \$5, shall issue a registration certificate and a
11 special veterans registration plate for one designated motorcycle owned or controlled by a
12 person who has served in the United States Armed Forces and who has been honorably
13 discharged or to a person who has served in the United States Armed Forces for at least 3
14 years and continues to serve.

15 ~~Each~~ An initial application must be accompanied by the applicant's Armed Forces Report
16 of Transfer or Discharge, DD Form 214 or other Department of Defense form or military
17 certification indicating military service that the Secretary of State approves, certification
18 from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs or the appropriate branch of the
19 United States Armed Forces verifying the applicant's military service and honorable
20 discharge, or a letter from the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency
21 Management, Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services verifying active duty military service
22 and length of service. The Secretary of State shall keep copies of accepted
23 documentation as a record of proof of veteran status on file to be used for subsequent
24 applications by the same applicant.

25 The Secretary of State shall recall a special veterans registration plate of a recipient who
26 has been less than honorably discharged from the United States Armed Forces.

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

29 Upon request the Secretary of State shall issue special veterans registration plates for a
30 motorcycle that are also vanity plates. These plates are issued in accordance with this
31 section and section 453. Vanity plates issued under this subsection may not duplicate
32 vanity plates issued in another class of plate.

33 The surviving spouse of a recipient of a special veterans registration plate issued in
34 accordance with this subsection may retain and display the plate as long as the surviving
35 spouse remains unmarried. Upon remarriage, the surviving spouse may not use the plate
36 on a motorcycle, but may retain it as a keepsake. Upon the death of the surviving spouse,
37 the family may retain the plate, but may not use it on a motorcycle.

38 The Secretary of State may not issue special commemorative decals under subsection 5 or
39 6 for use on special veterans registration plates for a motorcycle.

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SUMMARY

This bill amends the law that requires a veteran of the United States Armed Forces who is eligible to receive veterans license plates to show proof of veteran status to specify that proof is required only for the initial application and that the Secretary of State shall keep the copies of the documents on file to be used for any subsequent application for plates. It also expands the list of acceptable documents to provide for veterans who do not have their original discharge from military service papers.