

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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126th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2013

Legislative Document

No. 51

H.P. 46

House of Representatives, January 17, 2013

An Act To Allow Lifetime Disability Plates or Placards for Eligible Applicants with Lower Limb Loss

Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative DUNPHY of Embden.
Cosponsored by Representatives: CRAY of Palmyra, GIFFORD of Lincoln, HARLOW of Portland, KESCHL of Belgrade, MALABY of Hancock, McCLELLAN of Raymond, NELSON of Falmouth, TURNER of Burlington.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 29-A MRSA §521, sub-§5**, as amended by PL 2011, c. 23, §1, is further
3 amended to read:

4 **5. Application; issuance.** An application for a disability plate or placard must be
5 accompanied by the certificate of a physician, physician assistant, nurse practitioner or
6 registered nurse attesting to that person's physical disability as defined in subsection 1.
7 The Secretary of State shall issue to an eligible applicant disability plates and windshield
8 placards upon request. Proof of a disability must be submitted every 4 years on a form
9 prescribed by the Secretary of State except when the physician, physician assistant, nurse
10 practitioner or registered nurse certifies the disability as permanent or except when an
11 eligible applicant requests that the disability plate or placard expire upon the expiration
12 date of that person's driver's license or nondriver identification card issued by this State,
13 whichever is applicable. When the Secretary of State determines the disability to be
14 permanent from the application, the disability plate or placard expires upon the expiration
15 date of that person's driver's license or nondriver identification card issued by this State.
16 The applicant is not required to continue to provide proof of disability upon renewal of
17 the applicant's disability plate or placard. When the Secretary of State determines the
18 disability results from the loss of all or part of one or both of the lower limbs, not
19 including a partial foot amputation, the disability plate or placard does not expire during
20 the lifetime of the eligible applicant. When the applicant's need for the disability plate or
21 placard terminates or the applicant dies, the plate or placard must be immediately
22 returned to the Secretary of State. Notwithstanding subsection 2, paragraphs B and C, the
23 provisions of this subsection, as regards the issuance of a disability plate or placard for a
24 person with a permanent disability, apply only to that person.

25 **SUMMARY**

26 This bill provides that the disability plate or placard for a person with loss of all or
27 part of one or both lower limbs does not expire during the eligible applicant's lifetime.