

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Date: 6/11/21

(Filing No. S-254)

TRANSPORTATION

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STATE OF MAINE  
SENATE  
130TH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 511, L.D. 1618, "Resolve, To Place a Temporary Moratorium on the Approval of Any New Motor Vehicle Registration Plates and Initiate a Registration Plate Working Group"

Amend the resolve in the 2nd paragraph after the title in the 2nd line (page 1, line 4 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "manufacture" and inserting the following: 'manufacturing'

Amend the resolve in the 5th paragraph after the title in the first line (page 1, line 12 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "could" and inserting the following: 'may'

Amend the resolve by striking out everything after the emergency preamble and before the emergency clause and inserting the following:

**Sec. 1. Temporary moratorium. Resolved:** That the Department of the Secretary of State, Bureau of Motor Vehicles, notwithstanding the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 29-A, sections 468 and 468-A, may not approve any specialty or recognition plate sponsor to begin the specialty or recognition plate signature gathering process, bring forth enabling legislation or otherwise initiate any new designs, redesigns or additional registration plates other than already approved and enacted for a period of 2 years from the effective date of this resolve.

**Sec. 2. Registration plate working group. Resolved:** That the Department of the Secretary of State, Bureau of Motor Vehicles shall convene a working group, referred to in this section as "the working group," to study the proliferation of registration plates in accordance with this section.

**1. Membership.** Notwithstanding Joint Rule 353, the working group consists of 10 members as follows:

A. One member appointed by the President of the Senate from the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation;

B. One member appointed by the President of the Senate representing a state agency that is a recipient of funds generated by the sale of specialty license plates;

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**

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COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 511, L.D. 1618 (5-25A)

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C. One member appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives from the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation;

D. One member appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives representing a municipality or other political subdivision of the State engaged in the registration of motor vehicles on behalf of the State; and

E. One member appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives who is responsible for overseeing the manufacture of registration plates in the State Prison pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 29-A, section 451, subsection 6;

F. The Chief of the State Police or the chief's designee; and

G. The Secretary of State or the secretary's designee and the following representatives from the Department of the Secretary of State:

(1) The Deputy Secretary of State for the Bureau of Motor Vehicles or the deputy's designee;

(2) One member appointed by the Secretary of State from the Bureau of Motor Vehicles technology and information services staff; and

(3) One member appointed by the Secretary of State from the Bureau of Motor Vehicles who is responsible for oversight of motor vehicle registrations.

The President of the Senate and Speaker of the House of Representatives shall seek recommendations from the cochairs of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation when making appointments under this subsection.

**2. Compensation.** Notwithstanding Joint Rule 353, members of the working group may not be compensated for their work on the working group, but legislative members may receive the legislative per diem.

**3. Duties.** Duties of the working group include:

A. Identifying and documenting the roles and functions of the State's registration plates;

B. Exploring and documenting challenges in the registration plate manufacturing process;

C. Exploring the challenges of storing and securing registration plate inventories in municipalities and other political subdivisions of the State and in branch offices of the Bureau of Motor Vehicles;

D. Examining the benefits, detriments and legal issues arising from specialty registration plates;

E. Examining competing interests with specialty registration plates;

F. Examining standards and systems developed by national and industry experts and exploring ways in which the State can adopt such standards and systems; and

G. Making recommendations based on the findings of the working group.

**4. Staff assistance.** Notwithstanding Joint Rule 353, the Department of the Secretary of State, Bureau of Motor Vehicles shall provide necessary staffing services to the working group. Legislative Council staff support is not authorized.

# COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

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**5. Report.** The Bureau of Motor Vehicles shall provide a report by February 1, 2022 containing the findings and recommendations of the working group to the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation. The Joint Standing Committee on Transportation may introduce legislation for presentation to the Second Regular Session of the 130th Legislature based on the recommendations in the report.'

Amend the resolve by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section number to read consecutively.

**SUMMARY**

This amendment:

1. Removes the prohibition on the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation's consideration of specialty plate legislation;
2. Increases the size of the working group to 10 members and requires that certain working group appointments be made by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives instead of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation, but requires that the chairs of the committee be consulted regarding appointments;
3. Clarifies that legislative members are eligible for the legislative per diem;
4. Clarifies that the Department of the Secretary of State, Bureau of Motor Vehicles provides staff assistance to the working group and not the Legislative Council;
5. Clarifies provisions regarding the report to the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation; and
6. Makes other technical changes to the resolve.

**FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED  
(See attached)**



Approved: 06/09/21 *MGC*

# 130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 1618

LR 2036(02)

**Resolve, To Place a Temporary Moratorium on the Approval of Any New Motor Vehicle Registration Plates and Initiate a Registration Plate Working Group**

**Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-254)**

**Committee: Transportation**

**Fiscal Note Required: Yes**

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## Fiscal Note

### Legislative Cost/Study

#### Legislative Cost/Study

The general operating expenses of this study are projected to be \$1,000 in fiscal year 2021-22. The Legislature's budget for the 2022-2023 biennium includes \$10,000 in fiscal year 2021-22 and \$10,000 in fiscal year 2022-23 for the costs of legislative studies, as well as \$21,260 of balances carried over from prior years for this purpose. Whether these amounts are sufficient to fund all studies will depend on the number of studies authorized by the Legislative

#### Fiscal Detail and Notes

Additional costs to the Departments of the Secretary of State and Public Safety to serve on the working group and report the results can be absorbed within existing budgeted resources. Additional costs to the Department of Secretary State associated with providing staffing assistance to the working group can also be absorbed within existing budgeted resources.