

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 128

S.P. 67

In Senate, January 10, 2023

**An Act to Increase the Limit on Sets of Special Veterans
Registration Plates from 3 Sets to 4 Sets**

Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot.

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 2017, c. 43, §2 and PL 2019,
3 c. 377, §6, is further 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 registration
6 fee required by section 501 or by section 504, subsection 1 for a vehicle with a registered
7 gross weight over 10,000 pounds, shall issue a registration certificate and a set of special
8 veterans registration plates to be used in lieu of regular registration plates for a vehicle with
9 a registered gross weight of not more than 26,000 pounds to any person who has served in
10 the United States Armed Forces and who has been honorably discharged or to a person who
11 has served in the United States Armed Forces for at least 3 years and continues to serve. If
12 a person who qualifies for a special veterans registration plate under this subsection is the
13 primary driver of ~~3~~ 4 vehicles, the Secretary of State may issue in accordance with this
14 section a set of special veterans registration plates for each vehicle.

15 Each application must be accompanied by the applicant's Armed Forces Report of Transfer
16 or Discharge, DD Form 214, certification from the United States Veterans Administration
17 or the appropriate branch of the United States Armed Forces verifying the applicant's
18 military service and honorable discharge, or a letter from the Department of Defense,
19 Veterans and Emergency Management, Maine Bureau of Veterans' Services verifying
20 active duty military service and length of service.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 **Sec. 2. 29-A MRSA §523, sub-§3-A**, as amended by PL 2011, c. 356, §12 and PL
2 2019, c. 377, §6, is further amended to read:

3 **3-A. Motorcycle plates; veterans.** In addition to any plate issued pursuant to
4 subsection 3, the Secretary of State, on application and evidence of payment of the excise
5 tax required by Title 36, section 1482 and the registration fee required by section 515,
6 subsection 1, shall issue a registration certificate and a special veterans registration plate
7 for up to ~~3~~ 4 designated motorcycles owned or controlled by a person who has served in
8 the United States Armed Forces and who has been honorably discharged or to a person who
9 has served in the United States Armed Forces for at least 3 years and continues to serve.

10 Each application must be accompanied by the applicant's Armed Forces Report of Transfer
11 or Discharge, DD Form 214, certification from the United States Department of Veterans
12 Affairs or the appropriate branch of the United States Armed Forces verifying the
13 applicant's military service and honorable discharge, or a letter from the Department of
14 Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, Maine Bureau of Veterans' Services
15 verifying active duty military service and length of service.

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

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

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

24 The surviving spouse of a recipient of a special veterans registration plate issued in
25 accordance with this subsection may retain and use the plate or plates as long as the
26 surviving spouse remains unmarried. Upon remarriage, the surviving spouse may not use
27 the plate or plates, but may retain them. Upon the death of the surviving spouse, the family
28 may retain the plate or plates, but may not use them.

29 The Secretary of State may not issue special commemorative decals under subsection 5 or
30 6 for use on special veterans registration plates for a motorcycle.

31 **SUMMARY**

32 This bill increases from 3 to 4 the number of motor vehicles and the number of
33 motorcycles for which a veteran may request special veterans registration plates.