

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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EIGHTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 575

S. P. 436

In Senate, Feb. 13, 1931.

Referred to Committee on Judiciary and 500 copies ordered printed. Sent down for concurrence.

ROYDEN V. BROWN, Secretary.

Presented by Senator Jackson of Cumberland.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND NINE
HUNDRED AND THIRTY-ONE

AN ACT Relating to Registration and Taxation of Motor
Vehicles.

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

Section 1. Fiscal year for registration shall be April 1 to March 31. Section fifty-five of chapter twenty-nine of the revised statutes is hereby amended by striking out in the fifteenth line of said section the words "calendar year for which they are issued, except on and after December twenty-fifth of such calendar" and substituting in place thereof the following words: 'fiscal year beginning on April first and ending on March thirty-first for which they are issued, except that on or after March twenty-fifth of such fiscal', so that said section as amended shall read as follows:

'Sec. 55. Registration number plates; certificate of registration to be carried by operator or about the vehicle. The secretary of state shall furnish suitable number plates, seals, and other distinguishing marks, without charge, to every person whose vehicle is registered under this chapter. Such plates shall be of a distinctly different color or shade each year and shall be in such form as the secretary of state may determine; and shall bear the numerals of the year of issue, or the last two numerals of the year of issue, or the last two numerals of said year, the word "Maine" or the abbreviation "Me." in

letters not less than one inch in height. The numerals of the register number thereon, except on motor cycle number plates, shall be substantially not less than four inches high. The secretary of state may select and issue a special distinguishing letter, mark, or design for number plates issued to manufacturers and dealers; also for any temporary or other special class of registration and for use on motor cycles, trucks, trailers, tractors, and side-cars, which are required to be registered under this chapter.

Number plates so furnished shall be valid only for the fiscal year beginning on April first and ending on March thirty-first for which they are issued, except that on or after March twenty-fifth of such fiscal year, it shall be lawful to use and display on motor vehicles, the number plates issued for the next succeeding year. Each number plate displayed shall be horizontal and shall be so fastened as not to swing, and its lower edges shall be at least twelve inches from the ground. Not more than one set of number plates shall be displayed upon any vehicle, except as may be otherwise permitted by this chapter.

In the case of all motor vehicles and tractors, one number plate shall be attached to the front and the other to the rear of said vehicle, so that the plates and the registered number thereon shall always be plainly visible. In the case of trailers, semi-trailers, and side-cars, one such plate shall be attached to the rear thereof and shall be always plainly visible. All plates shall be kept reasonably clean and the numbers legible.

The certificate of registration shall always be carried on the person of the operator or occupant, or in some easily accessible place in or about the vehicle therein described, except that certificates of registration of dealers need not be so carried.

If any number plate is lost or the register number thereon becomes mutilated or illegible, the owner or person in control of the vehicle for which said number plate was furnished shall immediately place a temporary number plate bearing his register number upon said vehicle. Such temporary number plate shall conform to the register number plate and shall be displayed as nearly as possible as herein provided for said regular number plate, and such person shall within twenty-four hours after such loss or mutilation give notice thereof to the secretary of state and apply under oath for new number plates;

and thereupon the secretary of state, if satisfied of the truth of the facts stated in the application, shall supply a new set of number plates upon payment of a fee of seventy-five cents for each plate.

If the secretary of state is unable to furnish immediately to any person entitled thereto any plate or marker provided in this chapter, he may issue a temporary certificate with temporary number plates, which certificate shall be carried and said plates shall be displayed upon said vehicle in the same manner as required for regular certificates and number plates. Whenever one of a set of number plates is lost and a new set is issued, as provided in this section, the remaining plate shall forthwith be returned to the secretary of state. In case plates are lost in transportation, and the applicant shall certify in the affidavit that the plates have not been received by him and agrees that if they shall be received at some later date to return them forthwith, the secretary of state, after a thorough investigation, may furnish the applicant with a second set of plates without additional charge.'

Sec. 2. Registration and licenses to terminate on new fiscal year. Section sixty-five of chapter twenty-nine of the revised statutes is hereby amended by striking out in the third line of said section the word "December" and substituting in place thereof the word 'March'; and by striking out in the fourth line of said section the word "January" and substituting in place thereof the word 'April'; and by inserting in the fifth line of said section after the word "such" the word 'fiscal', so that said section as amended shall read as follows:

'Sec. 65. Registration certificates and licenses terminate with fiscal year. All registrations of vehicles, all certificates of registration and number plates, and all licenses to operate motor vehicles shall terminate and become void at midnight of the thirty-first day of March of each year; and no person shall operate any motor vehicle on or after the first day of April of any year unless then duly licensed to operate such vehicle for such fiscal year.'

Sec. 3. Phraseology of chapter twenty-nine and chapter twelve changed to conform with new fiscal year. In all sections of chapter twenty-nine and in sections ninety to ninety-nine, inclusive, of chapter twelve where the words "calendar year" appear the word "calendar" shall be struck out and the

word 'fiscal' substituted in place thereof; and in all the aforementioned sections where any date of the month or month of the year appears it is hereby deleted and the proper date is hereby inserted to make the date correspond with the new fiscal year beginning in April instead of January. This section is intended to affect only those sections of chapter twenty-nine and chapter twelve that have to do with the calendar year of motor vehicle registration and motor licenses and is to be construed in that light.

Sec. 4. Special provision for period from January first, nineteen hundred thirty-two to April first, nineteen hundred thirty-two. For the period extending from January first nineteen hundred thirty-two, to April first nineteen hundred thirty-two, applications for the registration of any motor vehicle or trailer and for any operator's or chauffeur's license shall be in accordance with and regulated by the provisions of chapter twenty-nine of the revised statutes with the exception that the fees payable shall be five-fourths of the particular fee applicable and that the registrations and licenses issued shall be for the period extending from January first nineteen hundred thirty-two to March thirty-first nineteen hundred thirty-three.

Sec. 5. Quarterly basis for registration fees. Section fifty-four of chapter twenty-nine of the revised statutes is hereby amended by striking out in the third and fourth lines of the last paragraph of said section the words "during the period between the first day of October and the thirty-first day of December, one-half the registration fee shall be charged", and substituting in place thereof the following words: 'the following proportions of the registration fee shall be charged during the following periods: from the first day of July to the thirtieth day of September, three-fourths; from the first day of October to the thirty-first day of December, one-half; from the first day of January to the thirty-first day of March, one-fourth', so that the last paragraph of said section as amended shall read as follows:

'On any application for registration applied for by an owner resident of this state, of a motor vehicle or trailer, not including a log hauler, or traction engine, the following proportions of the registration fee shall be charged during the following periods: from the first day of July to the thirtieth day of September, three-fourths; from the first day of October to the

thirty-first day of December, one-half; from the first day of January to the thirty-first day of March, one-fourth. The secretary of state upon granting the application shall register in a book or upon suitable index cards to be kept for the purpose, the vehicle described in the application, giving to its owner a distinguishing number or other mark, and shall thereupon issue a certificate of registration which shall contain the name, place of residence and address of the owner.'

Sec. 6. Quarterly basis for dealers' registration fees. Section sixty of chapter twenty-nine of the revised statutes is hereby amended by striking out in the twenty-first, twenty-second and twenty-third lines of said section the words "during the period between the first day of October and the thirty-first day of December in any year, one-half of the registration fee shall be charged", and substituting in place thereof the following words: 'the following proportions of the registration fee shall be charged during the following periods: from the first day of July to the thirtieth day of September, three-fourths; from the first day of October to the thirty-first day of December, one-half; from the first day of January to the thirty-first day of March, one-fourth', so that said section as amended shall read as follows:

'Sec. 60. Dealer's registration; fees for plates; vehicles under dealers' registration not to be operated for hire; limitation of use of commercial vehicle so registered. Every manufacturer or dealer in motor vehicles or trailers, may, instead of registering each vehicle owned or controlled by him, make application under oath upon a blank provided by the secretary of state for a general distinguishing number, color, or mark. The secretary of state may, if satisfied with the facts stated in the application, grant the application and issue to the applicant a certificate of registration, containing the name, place of residence, and address of the applicant, and the general distinguishing number, color, or mark assigned to him and made in such form as the secretary of state may determine; and all vehicles owned or controlled by such manufacturer or dealer shall be regarded as registered under such general distinguishing number, color, or mark until sold, exchanged, or operated for hire. The annual fee for every such certificate of registration shall be thirty dollars. The secretary of state shall furnish the manufacturer or dealer with three pairs of registration

number plates free of cost; and there may be issued to any such applicant two similar pairs of plates, in addition to the three pairs so issued, upon payment of ten dollars for each such additional pair; and upon payment of five dollars per pair, additional plates shall be furnished. Extra registration plates shall be furnished to replace lost or mutilated plates for seventy-five cents each. Single plates shall be furnished for trailers. On applications for registration, or for additional plates applied for by said manufacturers or dealers the following proportions of the registration fee shall be charged during the following periods: from the first day of July to the thirtieth day of September, three-fourths; from the first day of October to the thirty-first day of December, one-half; from the first day of January to the thirty-first day of March, one-fourth. No motor truck, tractor, or trailer registered under this section shall be used for other than demonstration or emergency purposes.'

Sec. 7. Quarterly basis for excise tax. Chapter twelve of the revised statutes is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to be numbered section ninety A, and to read as follows:

'Sec. 90A. Quarterly basis for excise tax. The amount of the excise tax as designated in section ninety, when paid during the following periods, shall be the following proportionate amount of the regular tax: from the first day of July to the thirtieth day of September, three-fourths; from the first day of October to the thirty-first day of December, one-half; from the first day of January to the thirty-first day of March, one-fourth. Provided, however, that an excise tax paid for the period from January to March shall not permit the registration of the motor vehicle for the next fiscal year commencing April one without the further payment of the excise tax that will be required during the period in which registration is requested.'