

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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N I N E T I E T H            L E G I S L A T U R E

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 526**

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S. P. 324

In Senate, February 6, 1941.

Referred to the Committee on Public Utilities and 500 copies ordered printed. Sent up for concurrence.

ROYDEN V. BROWN, Secretary.

Presented by Senator Batchelder of York.

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**STATE OF MAINE**

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
FORTY-ONE

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**AN ACT Relating to the Business of Letting or Leasing for Hire of Motor  
Vehicles to be used by any other Person, Firm or Corporation.**

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

**Regulation of business of letting for hire of motor vehicles.** Whereas the business of letting or leasing for hire, profit or compensation of motor vehicles to be used by any other person, firm or corporation for the purpose of hauling or transporting goods, wares, merchandise or other property upon the public highways of this state affects the use of the public highways by the general public, affects the interests of the general public in procuring transportation for hire, affects the proper regulation of common carriers and contract carriers transporting property for hire over the highways, and affects the adjustment and correlation of the various transportation agencies of the state, it hereby is declared that such business requires regulation as hereinafter provided.

No person, firm or corporation shall engage in the business of letting or leasing for hire, profit or compensation a motor vehicle or motor vehicles to be used by any other person, firm or corporation for the purpose of hauling or transporting goods, wares or merchandise or other property upon the public highways of this state until such person, firm or corpora-

tion owning or controlling such motor vehicle or motor vehicles shall first have obtained from the public utilities commission a permit authorizing the carrying on of the business of letting or leasing for hire, profit or compensation motor vehicles to be used by any other person, firm or corporation for the purpose of hauling or transporting goods, wares, merchandise or other property on public highways. Application for permits, and for renewal of permits, shall be made to the public utilities commission in the manner and form prescribed by the commission in regulations which it shall make, and shall be accompanied by a fee of fifteen dollars; no application for a permit shall be granted by the commission until after a public hearing, of which this commission shall give such notice as it deems necessary, nor unless the commission shall find that public convenience and necessity require the granting of such permit. Any permit issued by the commission shall specify the scope thereof and shall set forth, at the time of issuance and from time to time thereafter, such reasonable terms, conditions and limitations as the commission determines are required by virtue of the declaration contained in the preceding paragraph and in the public interest; all permits shall expire on the last day of February following the date of issue. Any person, firm or corporation bona fide engaged in the business of leasing or letting motor vehicles for hire, profit or compensation, in the manner and for the purpose hereinbefore set forth, on the effective date of this act shall be entitled to a permit as a matter of right provided application therefor is made within thirty days after the effective date of this act; public hearing shall be had on such applications, of which the commission shall give such notice as it deems necessary, and the commission shall issue a permit of such scope, and subject to such reasonable terms, conditions and restrictions, as it shall find to be supported by the evidence presented; and prior to decision on any such application, the applicant may continue the said business pending the issue, or denial, of a permit. Any person, firm or corporation to whom or which a permit is granted forthwith shall file with the public utilities commission a schedule of minimum rates and charges actually to be maintained and charged by it for the letting or leasing of motor vehicles, together with any rules, regulations or practices affecting such rates and charges; such minimum rates and charges shall be subject to the approval of the commission and may be altered or changed by the commission after a hearing, upon complaint or in an investigation on its own motion, and the person, firm or corporation to which the permit has been issued shall not charge less than the minimum rates and charges lawfully effective. The commission may make such reasonable rules and regulations as it may determine to be necessary to insure the proper administration and enforcement of

the provisions of this act and may require any person, firm or corporation to procure a good and sufficient insurance policy or indemnity bond, in such amount as the commission shall prescribe, for the protection of the general public.

Any person, firm or corporation violating, or any officer, agent or employee of such person, firm or corporation who orders, authorizes or knowingly permits the violation of, this act, or of any rule or regulation promulgated by the commission pursuant to this act, shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$10 nor more than \$500.