

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(Transmitted from the Revisor of Statutes under Joint Order)

S. P. 450

In Senate, February 14, 1941.

Referred to Committee on Motor Vehicles. Sent down for concurrence and 650 copies ordered printed.

ROYDEN V. BROWN, Secretary.

Presented by Senator Whitney of Penobscot by request.

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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 Registration Number Plates for Use on Motor  
Vehicles.**

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

**R. S., c. 29, § 55, amended.** Section 55 of chapter 29 of the revised statutes, as amended, is hereby further amended to 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 2 numerals of said year, the word "Maine" or the abbreviation "Me." in letters not less than  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch in height, and on plates issued for passenger vehicles for private use, hire cars, and trucks, there shall be placed at the bottom thereof in letters not less than  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch in height the word "Vacationland." The numerals of the register number thereon, except on motor cycle number plates, shall be substantially not less than 3 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 classes of registration and for use on motor cycles, trucks, trailers, tractors, and sidecars, which are required to be registered under this chapter.

Number plates so furnished shall be valid only for the calendar year for which they are issued, except that on and after December 25th of such calendar year, it shall be lawful to use and display on motor vehicles, the number plates issued for the next succeeding year; provided, further, that motor vehicle registrations and license tags issued thereon in any calendar year shall be valid for use and display until March 1st of the next calendar 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 12 inches from the ground. Not more than 1 set of number plates shall be displayed upon any vehicle, except as may be otherwise permitted by this chapter.

**The owner who returns number plates with an affidavit that they have never been used shall be entitled to a rebate of the registration fee paid.**

In the case of all motor vehicles and tractors, 1 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, semitrailers, and sidecars, 1 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 24 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 75c 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.'