

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ACTS AND RESOLVES  
OF THE  
SEVENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

OF THE  
STATE OF MAINE.

1911

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Published by the Secretary of State, agreeably to Resolves of  
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PUBLIC LAWS

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE

As Passed by the Seventy-fifth  
Legislature

*1911*

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**Chapter 162.****CHAP. 162**

An Act to more fully provide for the registration of motor vehicles, licensing of persons operating same, regulating speed, prescribing the amount of license and registration fees and making penalty for the violation of certain provisions of this act.

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

Section 1. The terms "motor vehicle," as used in this act shall include all vehicles self-propelled on the highway, townway, public streets, avenues, driveway, park or parkway, by motive power of whatsoever kind, namely, automobiles, (used for the conveyance of persons for hire, pleasure or business), motor trucks or automobiles (used for commercial purposes), motor cycles (used for pleasure or business), log haulers or traction engines (used for commercial purpose), excepting such vehicles as run only upon rails or railway tracks, automobile fire engines and apparatus, and other vehicles used by cities or towns, such as police patrol wagons and road rollers.

Term "motor vehicle" defined.

Section 2. The rate of speed upon any highway, townway, public street, avenue, driveway, park or parkway by any person operating a motor vehicle in this state shall be not greater than twenty-five miles an hour in open country outside of cities and villages, and within the compact or built-up portions of any city, town or village not greater than ten miles an hour, except where such city or town may by ordinance or by law permit a greater rate of speed.

Rate of speed of automobiles regulated.

Section 3. No person operating a motor vehicle on any highway, townway, public street, avenue, driveway, park or parkway, shall drive at any speed greater than is reasonable, safe and proper, having regard to the traffic and use of the public way by others, or so as to endanger the life or limb of any person. Racing and reckless driving on any such ways, streets, avenues or parks is hereby forbidden.

Rate of speed of automobiles shall be reasonable and proper.

—racing forbidden.

Permits may be granted by municipal officers of cities or towns after a public hearing thereon to drive automobiles or motor cycles in hill climbing contests during a specified time upon a certain highway at any rate of speed.

—permits for hill climbing contests.

Section 4. Whoever, driving or operating a motor vehicle upon any highway, townway, public street, avenue, driveway, park or parkway of this state, when approaching from the opposite direction a person riding, driving or leading a horse or other animal which appears to be frightened, is signaled by putting up of the hand or by other visible sign by such person shall cause such motor vehicle to come to a stop as soon as

Shall stop on request of drivers of horses.

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—when traveling in same direction.

Automobiles shall have horn, bell or other means of signalling.

—lamps.

Municipal officers may designate places where meeting with horses would be attended with unusual danger.

—sign-boards to be displayed.

—speed not to exceed five miles an hour at designated place.

Penalty for violation of the five preceding sections.

All motor vehicles shall be registered.

—application for registration shall be made to secretary of state.

possible and remain stationary so long as it may be necessary and reasonable to allow such horse or animal to pass. Whenever traveling in the same direction the person operating a motor vehicle shall use reasonable caution in passing horses or other animals and vehicles.

Section 5. Every such motor vehicle when in use on the highways shall have attached thereto a suitable horn, bell or other equally as good means of signal, that when blown, rung or otherwise operated may be heard a distance of at least two hundred feet, and shall also have lighted lamps between thirty minutes after sunset and thirty minutes before sunrise. Automobiles and motor trucks shall have at least two white lights forward and one red rear light with white light to plainly illuminate registered number. Motor cycles shall have at least one white light forward and one red rear light. Log haulers or traction engines shall have at least two white lights forward.

Section 6. Municipal officers of any city or town may designate places on any streets or ways therein, where in their judgment by reason of cliffs, embankments or other exceptional natural conditions the meeting of motor vehicles and horses or other animals would be attended with unusual danger, by causing the words "automobiles go slow" to be conspicuously displayed on sign boards on the right hand side of each approach to such place not less than one hundred and fifty feet distant therefrom. And no such motor vehicle shall pass any place so designated at a greater speed than five miles an hour, and if a horse ridden or driven is met coming from the opposite direction and signal from the person riding or driving such horse or other animal is made, the driver of such motor vehicle shall come to a stop as soon as possible, and allowing a reasonable time for said horse or other animal to pass, and whenever traveling in same direction, shall use reasonable and proper care in passing said horse or other animal.

Section 7. Whosoever violates any provision of the five preceding sections shall be punished by a fine not less than ten or more than twenty-five dollars for first offense and not less than twenty-five or more than fifty dollars for second offense committed during any period of twelve months, or by imprisonment of a term not exceeding ten days.

Section 8. All motor vehicles shall be registered by the owner or person in control thereof in accordance with the provisions of this act. Application for such registration may be made by mail or otherwise to the secretary of state upon blanks prepared under his authority. The application shall, in addition to such other particulars as may be required by said

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secretary, contain a statement of the name, place of residence and address of the applicant, with a brief description of the motor vehicle, including the name of the maker, the number if any, affixed by the maker, the character of the motive power and the amount of such power, stated in figures of horse power, and with such application shall be deposited an annual registration fee of:

—form of application.

Five dollars for automobiles (used for conveyance of persons for hire, pleasure or business), of twenty horse power and under.

Registration fees.

Ten dollars for automobiles (used for conveyance of persons, for hire, pleasure or business), between twenty horse power and including thirty-five horse power.

Fifteen dollars for automobiles (used for conveyance of persons, for hire, pleasure or business), over thirty-five horse power.

Ten dollars for motor trucks or automobiles (used for commercial purposes).

Three dollars for motor cycles (used for pleasure or business).

Ten dollars for traction engines or log haulers (used for commercial purposes).

The above horse power shall be based on the "A-L-A-M" standard, so-called. Application for registration, applied for by an owner of an automobile, a resident of this state, not including motor cycle, log hauler or traction engine, during the periods between the first day of October and ending December thirty-first in any year after nineteen hundred and eleven, one-half of the registration fee.

Horse power, how based.

—registration fees between October first and December thirty-first.

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 motor vehicle described in the application, giving to the owner of such motor vehicle a distinguishing number or other mark and shall thereupon issue to the applicant a certificate of registration, said certificate shall contain the name, place of residence and address of the applicant, and the registered number or mark shall prescribe the manner in which said registered number or mark shall be inscribed or displayed on the motor vehicle and shall be in such form as the secretary may determine.

Secretary of state shall keep a record of all motor vehicles licensed, and give to owner of machine distinguishing number and issue certificate of registration.

The secretary of state shall also furnish the applicant two enamel iron plates, containing the word "Maine" to be not less than one inch in height and the number of the registration

—Secretary of state shall furnish number plates.

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—how number plates shall be attached.

—record of applications shall be kept.

—registration expires upon sale of machine.

—plates, seal, etc., furnished free by secretary of state.

—registered motor cycle may be operated by owner without a license.

—replacing lost plates.

—express charges.

Registration of manufacturers and dealers.

—fee.

Secretary of state shall furnish five pairs of plates to manufacturer or dealer.

in Arabic numerals not less than four inches in height. The number plates must be attached to the front and rear of automobiles, auto trucks and traction engines. Motor cycles will be provided with a registration seal or other distinguishing mark as may be determined by the secretary of state. The number for motor cycles must be so placed as to be always plainly visible. A proper record of all applications for registration and of all certificates issued shall be kept by the secretary of state in his office and shall be open to the inspection of any person during reasonable hours. The certificate of registration shall always be carried on the person or in some easily accessible place in or about the motor vehicle. Upon the sale of any motor vehicle, registration shall expire and the vendor shall immediately return the certificate of registration to the secretary of state, with notice of sale and the name, place and residence and address of the vendee. Registration plates, seal, or other distinguishing mark for automobiles, motor cycles and traction engines shall be furnished free, from the office of the secretary of state.

A motor cycle that has been registered in accordance with this section, may be operated by the owner of such motor cycle without a license and the certificate of registration shall be evidence of the right to operate. To replace lost or mutilated plates, seventy-five cents each. The express charge for delivery of registration plates to be paid for by the receiver.

Section 9. Every manufacturer of or dealer in motor vehicles (automobiles or auto trucks) may instead of registering each motor vehicle owned or controlled by him, make application upon a blank provided by said secretary of state, for a general distinguishing number or mark and said secretary 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 or mark assigned to him or them and made in such form as the secretary of state may determine; and all motor vehicles (automobiles and motor trucks) owned and controlled by such manufacturer or dealer shall until sold, or exchanged be regarded as registered under such general distinguishing number or mark. The annual fee for every certificate of registration shall be:

Twenty-five dollars for privilege to purchase, demonstrate, sell and exchange automobiles and auto trucks.

The secretary of state shall furnish the manufacturer or dealer with five pairs of registration number plates free of cost. Extra registration plates to the manufacturers and deal-

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ers in automobiles and auto trucks, in addition to the five pairs of plates originally furnished, to replace lost or mutilated plates, seventy-five cents each. Expressage on registration number plates to be paid by the receiver. Application for registration applied for by a manufacturer or dealer in automobiles or motor trucks, during the periods beginning the first day of October and ending December thirty-first in any year, one-half of the registration fee.

Every manufacturer or dealer in motor cycles shall annually pay a fee of six dollars for registration certificate to handle, demonstrate, sell and exchange motor cycles. The secretary of state shall furnish the manufacturer of, or dealer in motor cycles with three sets of seals or other distinguishing marks free of cost. For every seal for motor cycle in addition to the three seals originally furnished the manufacturer or dealer in motor cycles to replace lost or mutilated plates, fifty cents. Expressage of seals to be paid by the receiver.

Every manufacturer or dealer in automobiles, auto trucks and motor cycles in this state shall pay to the secretary of state the registration fee on or before December thirty-first nineteen hundred and eleven, and annually on this date thereafter, provided that any manufacturer or dealer as aforesaid, commencing business in this state after January first of any year, shall pay to the secretary of state at the time of commencing said business the registration fee herein provided.

Section 10. Whenever a manufacturer or dealer sells or exchanges an automobile, he or they shall immediately notify the secretary of state to whom the motor vehicle has been sold or exchanged, with description of motor vehicle, name of maker, name of make, if possible, horse power and address of the party to whom sold or exchanged. The secretary of state shall furnish necessary blanks for making said reports. Application for registration applied for by manufacturers or dealers in automobiles, not including motor cycles, during the period between the first day of October and ending December thirty-first in any year one-half of the registration fee.

Section 11. No motor vehicle of whatsoever kind shall be operated by a resident of this state of Maine, upon any highway, townway, public street, avenue, driveway, park or parkway, unless registered as heretofore provided, and no person, a resident of the state, shall operate a motor vehicle upon any highway, townway, public street, avenue, driveway, park or parkway, unless licensed to do so, under the provisions of this act. Every registration of motor vehicles shall expire on the thirty-first day of December of each year and the certificate of registration thereupon becomes void.

—extra plates.

—expressage.

—registration fee between October first and December thirty-first.

—registration for the sale and exchange of motor cycles.

—secretary of state to furnish seals, etc., to dealers in motor cycles, free of cost.

—cost of additional seals.

—registration fee of manufacturer or dealer, when to be paid.

Secretary of state to be notified of sale of exchange of motor vehicle by manufacturer or dealer.

—secretary of state to furnish blanks.

—registration fee between October first and December thirty-first.

Motor vehicle owned by resident not to be operated unless registered.

—registration expires December thirty-first.

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Transferring ownership of automobile or motor truck in same year.

—fees.

—exchanges before the first day of August.

—rebate.

—proviso.

Municipal officers may grant permits to operate log hauler, traction engine, etc., on ways of town.

License shall be issued to persons over sixteen years of age.

—applications shall be made on blanks furnished by secretary of state.

—record of applications shall be kept.

Section 12. A person transferring the ownership of a registered automobile or motor truck and applying to the secretary of state for registration of another automobile or motor truck in the same calendar year, shall receive a certificate of registration and number plates therefor upon payment of a fee of two dollars, and pay expressage provided the horse power is the same as that of the former automobile or auto truck, but if the horse power of the other vehicle is greater he shall pay the difference between the fee paid by him for the vehicle first registered and the fee for the vehicle of greater horse power.

A person who may exchange an automobile or motor truck before the first day of August in any year and procure a certificate of registration paying therefor a fee of two dollars, shall if the automobile or motor truck received in exchange is of less horse power than the former vehicle, be entitled to a rebate of one-half the difference between the fee of said former vehicle and the fee for the vehicle of lower horse power received in exchange as aforesaid. Provided, however, that a person transferring the ownership of a motor cycle and applying for registration of another motor cycle within the same calendar year, shall pay for registration certificate thereof a fee one dollar, which fee shall include seal on number plate expressage to be paid by the receiver.

Section 13. A log hauler, traction engine or other motors to be used in drawing heavily loaded sledges, carts, drays or vans, may be operated upon the ways of any town, provided the owner or operator thereof shall first secure written permit from the municipal officers of such town, so to operate, and shall deposit with said municipal officers a good and sufficient bond running to said municipal officers and their successors in office in amount satisfactory to said municipal officers, conditioned to reimburse said town for any expenses necessarily incurred in repairing all damages to their townways caused by the use of such log hauler, traction engine or other motor thereon.

Section 14. Licenses for operating motor vehicles shall be issued by the secretary of state to persons not less than sixteen years of age. Applications shall be made upon blanks prepared by the secretary of state for this purpose and the licenses issued shall be in such form and shall contain such provisions as said secretary of state may determine. To such licenses shall be assigned some distinguishing number or mark and a proper record of all applications for license and of all licenses issued shall be kept by the secretary of state at his office and shall be open to the inspection of any person during reasonable business hours.

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Each license shall state the name, age, place of residence of licensee and the distinguishing number or mark assigned to him. The fee for such license to operate an automobile, motor truck or traction engine shall be two dollars, which shall be deposited at the time of making the application. The secretary of state may at any time suspend or revoke any license for any violation of this act or regulation made thereunder. Before a license to operate is granted, the applicant shall present such evidence as to his qualification to operate a motor vehicle, as may be required by the secretary of state. Every person licensed to operate motor vehicles shall endorse his name in the margin of the license and such license shall not be valid until so endorsed.

—contents of license.

—fee for license.

—secretary of state may suspend or revoke license.

Section 15. Non-residents may operate motor vehicles on the roads and highways of this state not exceeding thirty days without registration, provided that such motor vehicle is registered in some other state or country and has attached thereto registered plates, and driven by a person licensed to operate in this or some other state or country. Previous to the expiration of said thirty days, if the owner is to continue operation within this state, he must make application to the secretary of state for registration in accordance with section eight and pay the fee of

Operation of motor vehicles by non-residents, regulated.

Five dollars for automobile, twenty horse power and under,

—fees.

Ten dollars for automobile between twenty horse power and including thirty-five horse power,

Fifteen dollars for automobile of over thirty-five horse power,

Three dollars for motor cycle,

Ten dollars for auto truck,

Ten dollars for traction engine and log hauler,

on receipt of which fee the secretary of state shall furnish said applicant a certificate of registration and two number plates free of expense, expressage to be paid by the receiver, which said plates must be placed on the motor vehicles, forward and rear, and remain there so long as such motor vehicle is operated in this state in the year of issuing said certificate, provided, however, that applications for registration for non-resident owners of motor vehicles applied for during the periods between the first days of October and ending December thirty-first in any year after nineteen hundred and eleven, shall be one-half of said registration fee. Motor cycles owned by non-residents driven by a person registered in this or some other state or country may be operated on the roads and highways of this state having a registration seal, plate or other distinguishing

—certificate of registration and number plates furnished by secretary of state.

—proviso.

—motor cycles owned by non-residents.

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mark attached to his motor cycle, on thirty days limitation before registering.

Penalty for violation of the seven preceding sections.

Section 16. Whosoever violates any provisions of the seven preceding sections shall be punished by fine not exceeding fifty dollars or by imprisonment not exceeding ten days.

Operation of motor vehicles by unlicensed persons while learning.

Section 17. This or the preceding sections shall not prevent the operation of motor vehicles by unlicensed persons if riding with or accompanied by a licensed operator. Such unlicensed persons so operating for the purpose of becoming familiar with the use and handling of a motor vehicle, preparatory to taking out license for driving.

Unless prohibited by special laws, motor vehicles may be operated on highways of this state.

Section 18. Motor vehicles of whatever kind or description may be operated on the roads and highways of this state, unless prohibited by special law or town ordinance duly authorized by the legislature, prohibiting the use of automobiles or motor vehicles in certain towns, contained in public laws nineteen hundred three, nineteen hundred five, nineteen hundred seven, nineteen hundred nine, subject, however, to the provisions of sections two, three, four, five, six, and seven.

Licences issued prior to December 31, 1911, become void on that date.

Section 19. All licenses to operate motor vehicles that have been issued prior to December thirty-first, nineteen hundred and eleven, will become void on that date and all applications for new licenses to drive or operate a motor vehicle must be made to the secretary of state and a certificate received to enable the person to drive or operate a motor vehicle of whatsoever kind excepting motor cycles on and after January first, of any year, which certificate will be furnished by the secretary of state on payment of two dollars.

Penalty for operating a motor vehicle in a reckless way, or while intoxicated, or without authority of owner.

Section 20. Any person operating a motor vehicle upon any way recklessly or while under the influence of intoxicating liquor so that the lives or safety of the public are in danger, or upon a bet, wager or race, or who for the purpose of making a record, thereby violating the speed regulations and who knowingly goes away without stopping and making himself known after causing injury to any person or property, or who uses a motor vehicle without authority from its owner, shall be punished by a fine not exceeding fifty dollars, or by imprisonment for a term of three months, or by both such fine and imprisonment, and if any person be convicted the second time for violation of this section, he shall be punished by a fine of one hundred dollars or by imprisonment for a term not less than six months and not more than one year. On conviction of violation of this section, the license of the person to operate so convicted shall be revoked immediately. And if the person so

—for second offence.

—on conviction, license shall be revoked.

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convicted is the owner of a motor vehicle, or has control of any motor vehicles as a manufacturer or dealer, the certificate of registration of all motor vehicles owned or controlled shall be revoked.

—registration of machine shall be revoked if owner is convicted.

Section 21. All fees received by the secretary of state under this act shall be turned over to the state treasurer every calendar month during the year to be appropriated and used for the repair, maintenance and construction of the state highways, under the direction of the Maine state highway commission.

Fees, how disposed of.

Section 22. All automobiles, auto trucks ten horse power or more, shall be provided with two efficient brakes, foot brake and emergency lever brake. Motor cycles shall be provided with at least one brake to be operated by hand. All motor vehicles (automobiles, motor cycles and auto trucks) must be supplied with muffler, when operating the roads of this state and of such construction and device to prevent excessive noise. Motor vehicles when left in the public streets or ways unattended, drivers or operators shall effectively set brakes.

All machines shall be provided with brakes.

—set brakes.

Section 23. This act shall become operative on and after December thirty-first, nineteen hundred and eleven, and all acts and parts of acts, or laws that have been enacted contrary to and inconsistent are hereby repealed, provided, however, that nothing herein contained in this act shall in any way affect the laws enacted to prohibit the use of automobiles or motor vehicles in certain towns as made and contained in public laws of nineteen hundred three, nineteen hundred five, nineteen hundred seven and nineteen hundred and nine.

When this act becomes operative.

—inconsistent acts repealed.

Approved March 30, 1911.

### Chapter 163.

An Act to amend Chapter eight of the Revised Statutes, as amended by Chapter one hundred and eighty-six of the Public Laws of nineteen hundred and nine, Chapter one hundred and twenty-four of the Public Laws of nineteen hundred and five and Chapter one hundred and eighty-seven of the Public Laws of nineteen hundred and nine, in relation to collection of Inheritance Taxes.

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

Section 1. Section sixty-nine of chapter eight of the revised statutes, as amended by chapter one hundred and eighty-six of the public laws of nineteen hundred and nine is hereby further amended so as to read as follows:

‘Section 69. All property within the jurisdiction of this state, and any interest therein, whether belonging to inhabitants of this state or not, and whether tangible or intangible, which

Section 69, chapter 8, R. S., as amended by chapter 186, public laws 1909, further amended.

Property subject to collateral inheritance tax.