

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE

AS PASSED BY THE

ONE HUNDRED AND NINTH LEGISLATURE

AT THE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

January 2, 1980 to April 3, 1980

AND AT THE

THIRD SPECIAL SESSION

May 22, 1980

PUBLISHED BY THE DIRECTOR OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH IN
ACCORDANCE WITH MAINE REVISED STATUTES ANNOTATED,
TITLE 3, SECTION 164, SUBSECTION 6.

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PUBLIC LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE
AS PASSED AT THE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION
of the
ONE HUNDRED AND NINTH LEGISLATURE
January 2, 1980 to April 3, 1980

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this Act shall take effect when approved.

Effective March 28, 1980

CHAPTER 664

H. P. 1724 — L. D. 1828

AN ACT to Provide for the Reregistration of a Motor Vehicle when the Previous Registration has Expired for more than 30 Days.

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

29 MRSA § 106, as amended by PL 1979, c. 443 and as repealed and replaced by PL 1979, c. 552, § 1, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

§ 106. Expiration date

The registration year for all vehicles, except automobiles, newly acquired motor trucks and truck tractors, is from March 1st to the last day of February of the next calendar year. On and after February 1st, it is lawful to use and display on such vehicles the number plates or suitable devices in lieu thereof issued for the registration year.

1. New motor truck and truck tractor registrations. New motor truck and truck tractor registrations expire at the end of the month one year from the month of issuance.

2. Automobile registrations and reregistrations. Automobile registrations and reregistrations shall be in accordance with this subsection.

A. Automobile registrations expire annually on the last day of the month, one year from the month of issuance.

B. Except as herein provided, when application for registration of an automobile, motor truck, or truck tractor is made after the registration for the previous year has been expired for more than 30 days, the expiration date of the renewal shall be at the end of the month, one year from the month of issuance of the previous registration. If the applicant provides satisfactory evidence and certifies in writing to the Secretary of State that the vehicle has not been operated on a public way during the period of the expired registration, the registration expiration date, upon renewal, is at the end of the month one year from the month of issuance of the registration renewal.

C. Any person who has a fleet of 5 or more automobiles, trucks or truck

tractors may petition the Secretary of State for a common expiration date of all vehicles in the fleet.

3. Number plates. Number plates or a suitable device in lieu thereof furnished for the next registration period for automobiles, motor trucks and truck tractors may be displayed on the first day of the month in which the current registration expires.

Effective July 3, 1980

CHAPTER 665

H. P. 1728 — L. D. 1847

AN ACT to Declare the Right of the Public to Attend Certain Pretrial Criminal Proceedings.

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

15 MRSA § 457 is enacted to read:

§ 457. Open pretrial criminal proceeding

1. Definition of pretrial proceeding. As used in this section, the term "pretrial proceeding" means an appearance before the court at which both parties are present and motions are heard, witnesses testify or evidence is presented, when the appearance occurs after the beginning of the initial appearance of the accused and before the swearing in of the jury or, in a jury waived trial, before the calling of the first witness.

2. Open proceedings. Except as provided by statute, the general public may not be excluded from a pretrial criminal proceeding at which the court hears a motion to exclude evidence from trial, unless the court finds a substantial likelihood that:

A. Injury or damage to the accused's right to a fair trial will result from conducting the proceeding in public;

B. Alternatives to closure will not protect the accused's right to a fair trial; and

C. Closure will protect against the perceived injury or damage.

3. Exceptions. Nothing in this section may be construed:

A. To limit the powers of courts to maintain decorum by ordering unruly