

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**LAWS**  
**OF THE**  
**STATE OF MAINE**

**AS PASSED BY THE**  
**ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE**

**FIRST REGULAR SESSION**  
**December 7, 1994 to June 30, 1995**

**THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR**  
**FIRST REGULAR SESSION**  
**NON-EMERGENCY LAWS IS**  
**SEPTEMBER 29, 1995**

**PUBLISHED BY THE REVISOR OF STATUTES**  
**IN ACCORDANCE WITH MAINE REVISED STATUTES ANNOTATED,**  
**TITLE 3, SECTION 163-A, SUBSECTION 4**

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**J.S. McCarthy Company**  
**Augusta, Maine**  
**1995**

**CHAPTER 190**

**H.P. 102 - L.D. 137**

**An Act to Create a Purple Heart License Plate**

**Emergency preamble.** Whereas, Acts of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

**Whereas,** a special registration plate is a means of giving recognition to recipients of the Purple Heart medal; and

**Whereas,** providing these plates in a timely manner is important to these distinguished individuals; and

**Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

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

**Sec. 1.** 29-A MRSA §524, sub-§4 is enacted to read:

**4. Purple Heart medal recipients; special license plates.** The Secretary of State, on application and upon evidence of payment of the excise tax required by Title 36, section 1482, the registration fee required by section 501 and a one-time additional fee of \$10, shall issue a registration certificate and a set of Purple Heart registration plates, to be used in lieu of regular registration plates, to a person who is a Purple Heart medal recipient. The one-time additional fee of \$10 is credited to the Highway Fund for administrative and production costs.

An application for Purple Heart plates must be accompanied by proof that the applicant has been awarded the Purple Heart medal. The Secretary of State shall verify the documentation presented by the applicant. Misrepresentation of documents is in violation of section 2103, subsection 5.

The Secretary of State may only issue Purple Heart plates for display on an automobile or pickup truck. A Purple Heart recipient may be issued Purple Heart plates for no more than 2 vehicles.

The surviving spouse of a Purple Heart recipient issued plates in accordance with this subsection may retain and display the Purple Heart plates as long as the surviving spouse remains unmarried. Upon remarriage, the surviving spouse may not use the

Purple Heart plates on a motor vehicle, but may retain them as a keepsake. Upon the death of the surviving spouse, the family may retain the Purple Heart plates, but may not use them on a motor vehicle.

The Secretary of State shall determine the design of the Purple Heart plate. Upon request and as provided by section 453, the Secretary of State shall issue Purple Heart plates that are also vanity plates. Purple Heart vanity plates are issued in accordance with this section and section 453. The annual service fee of \$15 for vanity plates is credited to the Highway Fund.

A Purple Heart recipient who does not operate a motor vehicle or register a motor vehicle and who otherwise qualifies for the issuance of special Purple Heart registration plates may apply to the Secretary of State for a special single plate recognizing that person's award.

The Secretary of State shall design and identify these single plates for recognition purposes only. Single Purple Heart plates may not be attached to a motor vehicle. Only one plate may be issued to each recipient and a one-time fee of \$5 charged.

The Secretary of State shall begin issuing Purple Heart plates in accordance with this subsection no later than November 1, 1995.

**Sec. 2. Allocation.** The following funds are allocated from the Highway Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.

**1994-95**

**SECRETARY OF STATE,  
DEPARTMENT OF THE**

**Administration - Motor  
Vehicles**

All Other	\$30,960
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Provides funds for the manufacturing and postage costs associated with creating a special license plate for recipients of the Purple Heart medal.

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

Effective June 1, 1995.

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