

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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

**AS PASSED BY THE**

**ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE**

**FIRST REGULAR SESSION**  
**December 7, 2022 to March 30, 2023**

**FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**  
**April 5, 2023 to July 26, 2023**

**THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR**  
**FIRST REGULAR SESSION**  
**NONEMERGENCY LAWS IS**  
**JUNE 29, 2023**

**THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR**  
**FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**  
**NONEMERGENCY LAWS IS**  
**OCTOBER 25, 2023**

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

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**Augusta, Maine**  
**2023**

bility. By November 1, 2024, the Director of the Office of Program Evaluation and Government Accountability shall review the laws governing full evaluations of tax expenditures under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 3, chapter 37 and identify and recommend to the Government Oversight Committee and the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation potential statutory changes to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the full evaluation process going forward, with particular attention to evaluation parameters and the schedule and pace of full evaluation reports. The Government Oversight Committee may submit legislation related to the recommendations of the director to the First Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature.

**Sec. 10. Staffing for tax expenditure review.**

By January 15, 2025, the Office of Program Evaluation and Government Accountability and the Office of Fiscal and Program Review shall notify the Legislative Council whether they can, within existing resources, provide staffing adequate to support the Government Oversight Committee and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over taxation matters in staffing the activities required by this Act or whether additional resources are needed.

See title page for effective date.

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**CHAPTER 418**

**H.P. 855 - L.D. 1341**

**An Act to Modernize the  
Bureau of Motor Vehicles'  
Mobile Services**

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

**Sec. 1. 29-A MRSA §160** is enacted to read:

**§160. Mobile motor vehicle services**

The Secretary of State shall establish and operate a program to provide mobile services.

**1. Populations served.** The program under this section must provide mobile services:

A. In rural areas where members of the public are required to travel an inconvenient distance to reach offices that can provide services under this section; and

B. To individuals who are unhoused, immigrants or refugees.

**2. Services.** The services under this section must include, to the maximum extent feasible:

A. Vehicle registration pursuant to chapter 5, subchapter 1; and

B. Renewal or replacement of a driver's license or nondriver identification card under chapter 11.

**Sec. 2. Remote motor vehicle services.** In order to provide the services described in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 29-A, section 160, the Secretary of State shall acquire 2 large vehicles to accommodate the needs of the program established pursuant to section 160. Each vehicle must be staffed by 4 individuals, who, to the maximum extent feasible, shall operate the program, including driving the vehicle and providing the services described in section 160.

**Sec. 3. Funding.** The Secretary of State shall modernize the Department of the Secretary of State, Bureau of Motor Vehicles' mobile services including traveling units, computer tablets, computers, printers, vehicle expenses and other information technology to establish and operate a program to provide mobile services to include vehicle registration and renewal or replacement of a driver's license or nondriver identification card. This program must be funded with up to \$1,000,000 in available prior year balances in the Personal Services and All Other line categories in the Department of the Secretary of State, Administration - Motor Vehicles program, Highway Fund account in accordance with Public Law 2023, chapter 50, Part B. The funds may be distributed by financial order upon recommendation of the State Budget Officer and approval of the Governor.

See title page for effective date.

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**CHAPTER 419**

**S.P. 557 - L.D. 1390**

**An Act to Provide Self-service  
Motor Vehicle Services**

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

**Sec. 1. 29-A MRSA §160** is enacted to read:

**§160. Motor vehicle services**

The Secretary of State shall establish and operate 8 self-service kiosks that provide, to the maximum extent feasible, at least the following services:

**1. Vehicle registration.** Vehicle registration renewal pursuant to chapter 5, subchapter 1; and

**2. Licenses or identification cards.** Renewal or replacement for a driver's license or nondriver identification card under chapter 11.

**Sec. 2. Report.** The Secretary of State shall investigate the various types of self-service kiosks that may provide services offered by the Department of the Secretary of State, Bureau of Motor Vehicles that are available to the State, including those self-service kiosks that are offered at no cost to the State. The Secretary of State shall provide a report that includes its findings from the investigation and any recommendations,

including any proposed statutory changes, to the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation by January 3, 2024. The committee may report out a bill related to self-service kiosks to the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.

**Sec. 3. Funding.** To implement the requirements of the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 29-A, section 160, the Secretary of State shall lease 8 self-service kiosks and may use, including for technology costs to provide vehicle registration renewal and driver's license and nondriver identification card renewal and replacement, up to \$1,000,000 in available prior year balances in the Personal Services and All Other line categories in the Department of the Secretary of State, Administration - Motor Vehicles program, Highway Fund account as authorized for this purpose in Public Law 2023, chapter 50, Part B. The funds may be allotted by financial order upon recommendation of the State Budget Officer and approval of the Governor.

See title page for effective date.

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**CHAPTER 420**

**H.P. 1251 - L.D. 1947**

**An Act to Amend the Maine Food Sovereignty Act**

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

**Sec. 1. 7 MRSA §282, sub-§1,** as enacted by PL 2017, c. 314, §1, is amended to read:

**1. Direct producer-to-consumer transaction.** "Direct producer-to-consumer transaction" means a ~~face-to-face transaction involving an exchange of food or food products at the site of production of those food or food products~~ directly between a food producer and a consumer by barter, trade or purchase on the property or premises owned, leased or rented by the food producer; at roadside stands, fundraisers, farmers' markets and community social events; or through buying clubs, deliveries or community-supported agriculture programs, herd-share agreements and other private arrangements.

**Sec. 2. 7 MRSA §415, sub-§4,** as enacted by PL 1993, c. 138, §1, is amended to read:

**4. Relationship to farmers' market rules.** This section does not prohibit a farmers' market from imposing more stringent requirements on its sellers than those imposed by subsection 2, paragraph B or an ordinance adopted pursuant to section 284.

See title page for effective date.

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**CHAPTER 421**  
**H.P. 1262 - L.D. 1965**

**An Act to Authorize the Secretary of State to Provide a New General Issue of License Plates**

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

**Sec. 1. 29-A MRSA §451, sub-§1-A,** as enacted by PL 1995, c. 645, Pt. C, §1 and affected by §16, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

**1-A. New general issue.** The Secretary of State shall provide for a new general issue of registration plates and shall begin issuing the new plates no later than May 1, 2025. The Secretary of State shall complete the issuance of new plates before July 31, 2026 to all vehicles required to obtain new plates.

**Sec. 2. 29-A MRSA §451, sub-§4, ¶A,** as enacted by PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 and affected by Pt. B, §5, is amended to read:

A. Registration plates must bear the year of issue or the last 2 numerals of that year and the word "Maine" or the abbreviation "Me." in letters of at least 3/4 inch in height centered at the top of the registration plate.

**Sec. 3. 29-A MRSA §451, sub-§4-A,** as enacted by PL 1997, c. 311, §1, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

**4-A. New general issue design.** Notwithstanding subsection 4, the design of registration plates issued pursuant to subsection 1-A is governed by this subsection.

A. Registration plates must bear the year of issue or the last 2 numerals of that year and the word "Maine" in letters of at least 3/4 inch in height centered at the top of the registration plate.

B. Except on motorcycle plates, registration numbers may not be substantially less than 3 inches high.

C. On registration plates issued for private use and trucks, the word "Vacationland" must be centered at the bottom in letters not less than 3/4 inch in height, except when the Secretary of State determines that, for other than passenger vehicles, that space may be used for class codes.

D. A new registration plate must have a buff neutral shaded background that does not interfere with any identifying characteristics on the plate, a distinct border and:

(1) Blue identification numbers and letters, a representation of an eastern white pine tree and