

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE
115TH LEGISLATURE**

**FIRST REGULAR SESSION
AND
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**

**BILL SUMMARIES
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
TRANSPORTATION**

AUGUST 1991

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**ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION
AND
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
BILL SUMMARIES
AUGUST 1991**

This document is a compilation of the bill summaries prepared by this office for the Joint Standing Committees and Joint Select Committees of the Maine Legislature. The volume is organized alphabetically by committee; within each committee, the summaries are arranged by LD number. A subject index is provided at the beginning of each committee's summaries.

All adopted amendments are listed, by paper number (e.g., H - 584 or S - 222), together with the sponsor for floor amendments. Final action on each bill is listed to the right of the title. Various types of final action are abbreviated as follows:

PUBLIC XXX	<i>Chapter # of enacted Public Law</i>
P&S XXX	<i>Chapter # of enacted Private & Special Law</i>
RESOLVE XXX	<i>Chapter # of enacted Resolve</i>
CON RES XXX	<i>Chapter # of Constitutional Resolution passed by both Houses</i>
EMERGENCY	<i>Enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days</i>
CARRIED OVER	<i>Bill carried over to 2nd Session</i>
FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT	<i>Bill failed to get 2/3 vote</i>
ONTP	<i>Ought Not to Pass report accepted</i>
LVWD	<i>Leave to Withdraw report accepted</i>
INDEF PP	<i>Bill Indefinitely Postponed</i>
DIED BETWEEN BODIES	<i>House & Senate disagree; bill died</i>
VETO SUSTAINED	<i>Legislature failed to override Governor's Veto</i>
UNSIGNED	<i>Not signed by Governor within 10 days</i>
DIED ON ADJOURNMENT	<i>Action incomplete when 1st session ended</i>

These summaries were prepared by the analyst or analysts assigned to the committee. But, this document was produced by the efforts of all the office staff, including secretaries: Charlene Raymond and Valarie Parlin, and especially Laurette Knox who coordinated preparation of the overall document.

If you have any suggestions or comments on these summaries, please let us know.

Catalytic converters would have remained subject to inspection standards promulgated by the Chief of the State Police pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 29, §2503, sub-§1.

This bill also would have allowed dealers to demonstrate and use new motor vehicles that have not been previously registered or titled without requiring inspection stickers. This would have applied only to new vehicles and would have avoided the process of changing inspection stickers on new vehicles that remain in inventory for an extended period of time. This would not have changed inspection law requirements for new vehicles when they are sold and titled.

LD 1733 An Act Requiring Notice by the Secretary of State before ONTP
Suspension or Expiration of a Motor Vehicle Registration
(By Request)

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
GAUVREAU	ONTP	

SUMMARY

This bill would have required the Secretary of State to provide written notice to registrants at least 7 days prior to suspension or expiration of their motor vehicle registrations.

LD 1765 An Act Amending Certain Motor Vehicle Laws PUBLIC 597

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
MACOMBER TWITCHELL STROUT BAILEY R	OTP-AM	H-653

SUMMARY

This bill makes several changes to the motor vehicle laws. The bill enacts a new provision allowing municipal agents who are authorized to process a variety of permits to collect a service fee of \$1 in addition to the amounts charged for each of these transactions. The bill empowers the Secretary of State to revoke with due cause the appointment of municipal agents.

The bill amends a variety of plate laws including hire class license plates, initial plates for taxicabs, disabled veteran registration plates, vehicle dealer's service plates and dealer wrecker plates. The bill also clarifies when the next new plate issue begins.

The bill amends a variety of laws relating to licenses, including the validity period for commercial vehicle operation of valid Class 1, 2 and 3 licenses and licenses endorsed for operation of school buses. The bill amended the waiting period for special restricted licenses for 15 year olds and the fee of a commercial driver's license. It also allows the Secretary of State to suspend the license of any licensed dealer for failure to have an established place of business and it amends the definition of unlawful use of a license. The bill clarifies the work license provision of the habitual offender.

The bill also amends several insurance related provision including the definition of a repeat operating-under-the-influence offender and the provision that allows vehicles to be insured by foreign insurance carriers. The bill also states that the insurance required for vehicles used for hire or as school buses or in the transportation of students must be provided by a company authorized by the Superintendent of Insurance.

The bill clarifies the methods of insurance, indemnity bond or self-insurance provision for motor vehicles requiring operating permits in accordance with the Maine Highway Transportation Reform Act.

Additionally, the bill exempts equipment dealers from the requirement of filing a surety bond. It clarifies the court's authority to suspend registration certificates and plates. The bill makes clear that when a divorce decree awards a vehicle to an individual, that individual is the owner of the vehicle. It also requires salvage dealers to keep more accurate records regarding the vehicles they process.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-653) deletes two sections from the bill and permits most special mobile equipment registrants to register their vehicles as Class A or B equipment. The amendment exempts trailer and semitrailer registrants from having to produce a proof or insurance card at the time of registration. It also extends the length of the current general issue registration plate authorization and clarifies the Secretary of State's authority to order the return of licenses, registrations and plates.

The amendment repeals unallocated law provisions and allocates them to Maine Revised Statutes, Title 29. It also repeals a portion of law that exempts federal employees from licensing requirements. The amendment requires a person with a claim against a surety bond filed by a vehicle dealer or transporter to make the claim within three years of sale.

Additionally, the amendment authorizes insurers to conduct certain types of business in the State and authorizes the Secretary of State to collect and distribute overdimensional truck fees. The amendment adds an allocation and a fiscal note to the bill.

LD 1779 An Act to Create Special Veteran Plates and Emblems

PUBLIC 600

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
MACOMBER THERIAULT GOULD R R STROUT	OTP-AM	H-480

SUMMARY

This bill authorizes special registration plates for veterans who have been awarded the Purple Heart or the Combat Infantry Award or the veterans who were stationed at Iwo Jima during World War II or veterans stationed in Vietnam during the Tet Offensive or veterans who served in Operation Desert Storm.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-480) expands eligibility for the plates to veterans who served in the Korean Conflict or who have been awarded the Bronze Star. The amendment also establishes an effective date of January 1, 1992, for the bill and adds an allocation and a fiscal note to the bill.

LD 1787 Resolve, to Extend the Schedule for Recodification of the Motor Vehicle Laws

**RESOLVE 31
EMERGENCY**

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
PRAY MAYO WHITCOMB	OTP-AM	S-233

SUMMARY

This bill extends the deadline for the revision of the State's motor vehicle laws. In light of the