CHAPTER 5

VEHICLE REGISTRATION

SUBCHAPTER 1

REGISTRATION

ARTICLE 1

GENERAL REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

§351. Registration required

The owner of a vehicle that is operated or remains on a public way is responsible for registering the vehicle. [PL 1999, c. 68, §1 (NEW).]

1. Failure to register. A person who operates a vehicle that is not registered in accordance with this Title, fails to register a vehicle or permits a vehicle that is not registered to remain on a public way commits:

A. A traffic infraction for which a fine of not more than $50 may be adjudged for a first offense if the vehicle was registered and the registration has been expired for more than 30 days but less than 150 days; [PL 2021, c. 427, §1 (AMD); PL 2021, c. 427, §4 (AFF).]

B. [PL 2021, c. 427, §1 (RP); PL 2021, c. 427, §4 (AFF).]

C. A traffic infraction for which a fine of not more than $100 may be adjudged for a first offense if the vehicle was registered and the registration has been expired for 150 days or more; [PL 2021, c. 427, §1 (NEW); PL 2021, c. 427, §4 (AFF).]

D. A traffic infraction for which a fine of not more than $500 may be adjudged for each subsequent offense; or [PL 2021, c. 427, §1 (NEW); PL 2021, c. 427, §4 (AFF).]

E. A Class E crime if the vehicle has never been registered by the current owner of the vehicle. [PL 2021, c. 427, §1 (NEW); PL 2021, c. 427, §4 (AFF).]

A person served with a Violation Summons and Complaint charging a violation of this subsection may have the complaint dismissed if that person shows satisfactory evidence of registration that was in effect at the time of the alleged violation or that the person subsequently registered the vehicle prior to the date required for filing an answer to the complaint. The clerk of the District Court Violations Bureau must dismiss the complaint if, prior to the date required for filing an answer to the complaint, the person charged files a copy of the Violation Summons and Complaint with the bureau, together with satisfactory evidence of registration. If a person files a timely answer to a Violation Summons and Complaint alleging a violation of this subsection and that person presents to the court at the time of trial satisfactory evidence of registration, the court must dismiss the complaint.
[PL 2021, c. 427, §1 (AMD); PL 2021, c. 427, §4 (AFF).]

1-A. Residents required to register. An owner of a vehicle who becomes a resident of this State shall register that vehicle in this State within 30 days of establishing residency. A person who operates or allows a vehicle that is not registered in accordance with this subsection to remain on a public way commits:

A. A traffic infraction for which a fine of not more than $50 may be adjudged for a first offense if more than 30 days but less than 150 days has elapsed since establishing residency; [PL 2021, c. 427, §2 (AMD); PL 2021, c. 427, §4 (AFF).]

A-1. A traffic infraction for which a fine of not more than $500 may be adjudged for a 2nd and each subsequent offense; or [PL 2021, c. 427, §2 (NEW); PL 2021, c. 427, §4 (AFF).]

B. A Class E crime if more than 150 days have elapsed since establishing residency. [PL 2005, c. 433, §5 (NEW); PL 2005, c. 433, §28 (AFF).]

[PL 2021, c. 427, §2 (AMD); PL 2021, c. 427, §4 (AFF).]

2. Operating a vehicle with an expired registration. The owner or operator of a vehicle stopped by a law enforcement officer and having a registration that has expired within the last 30 days must be issued a warning, rather than a summons, in a form designated by the Chief of the State Police. This warning must state that:

A. Within 10 business days, the owner or operator must register the vehicle; [PL 2021, c. 427, §3 (AMD); PL 2021, c. 427, §4 (AFF).]

B. The renewed registration expires on the same month as the previous registration; and [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

C. The registration fee is the same as for a full year's registration. [PL 1999, c. 68, §1 (AMD).]

[PL 2021, c. 427, §3 (AMD); PL 2021, c. 427, §4 (AFF).]

3. Temporary permit to tow unregistered vehicle. A law enforcement officer, an employee of a municipal police department designated by the chief, an employee of the sheriff's department designated by the sheriff, an employee of the State Police designated by the Chief of the State Police or an employee of the bureau designated by the Secretary of State may issue a permit in writing to allow:

A. An unregistered motor vehicle to be towed either by a regular service wrecker or by the use of a towbar or tow dolly; or [PL 2001, c. 360, §3 (AMD).]

B. [PL 1995, c. 247, §1 (RP).]

C. An unregistered trailer or semitrailer with a gross weight of 3,000 pounds or less to be towed, for one trip only, between the points of origin and destination. [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

A permit issued under this subsection is valid for no more than 3 days, including the date of issuance.
[PL 2001, c. 360, §3 (AMD).]

3-A. Permit to operate unregistered vehicle. Upon stopping a vehicle with a registration that has been expired for more than 30 days, a law enforcement officer may issue a permit to the owner or operator of the vehicle to operate the vehicle to the owner's residence or to an office of the bureau for the sole purpose of renewal of the registration by the owner.
[PL 1995, c. 247, §2 (NEW).]

4. Duplicate registration, notification of change in location or status. Duplicate registrations are provided in accordance with section 1405. A person to whom a registration has been issued must notify the Secretary of State of a change in location or status in accordance with section 1407.
[PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

5. Expiration of 30-day temporary registration plate. Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, a person who operates a vehicle with an expired temporary registration plate issued pursuant to section 954-A commits:

A. A traffic infraction for which a fine of not more than $50 may be adjudged if the registration has been expired for less than 150 days; or [PL 2023, c. 257, §5 (AMD).]

B. A Class E crime if the registration has been expired for 150 days or more. [PL 2001, c. 671, §4 (NEW).]

[PL 2023, c. 257, §5 (AMD).]

6. Improper registration. A traffic infraction for which a fine of not less than $200 nor more than $1,000 may be adjudged if the vehicle is not properly registered. For purposes of this subsection, "not properly registered" means the vehicle is either registered in a manner that is not reflective of its current actual use or as a type of vehicle that it is not as a matter of law, including, but not limited to, a motor vehicle registered as an antique auto when the vehicle is not an antique auto as defined in section 101, subsection 3.

[PL 2013, c. 112, §7 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1993, c. 683, §A2 (NEW). PL 1993, c. 683, §B5 (AFF). PL 1995, c. 247, §§1,2 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 454, §2 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 584, §B4 (AMD). PL 1999, c. 41, §1 (AMD). PL 1999, c. 68, §1 (AMD). PL 2001, c. 360, §3 (AMD). PL 2001, c. 361, §5 (AMD). PL 2001, c. 671, §§3,4 (AMD). PL 2005, c. 433, §5 (AMD). PL 2005, c. 433, §28 (AFF). PL 2013, c. 112, §§6, 7 (AMD). PL 2021, c. 427, §§1-3 (AMD). PL 2021, c. 427, §4 (AFF). PL 2023, c. 257, §5 (AMD).

§352. Minors

1. Application for registration. The Secretary of State may not approve the application of a minor for registration of a vehicle unless the minor is at least 15 years old and the application is signed by:

A. A parent or guardian who has the custody of the minor; [PL 1995, c. 482, Pt. B, §2 (NEW).]

B. If the minor has no parent or guardian, the minor's employer; or [PL 1995, c. 482, Pt. B, §2 (NEW).]

C. If the minor is emancipated, the minor. In this case, the application must be accompanied by an attested copy of the court order of emancipation. [PL 1995, c. 482, Pt. B, §2 (NEW).]

[PL 1995, c. 482, Pt. B, §2 (RPR).]

2. Suspension. If a person who has signed the application files with the Secretary of State a notarized written request that the registration be suspended, the Secretary of State shall, pursuant to chapter 23, suspend the registration without hearing.

[PL 1995, c. 482, Pt. B, §2 (RPR).]

3. Minor.

[PL 1995, c. 482, Pt. B, §2 (RP).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1993, c. 683, §A2 (NEW). PL 1993, c. 683, §B5 (AFF). PL 1995, c. 482, §B2 (RPR).

§353. Members of Armed Forces

A registration issued by the Armed Forces of the United States in foreign countries for a vehicle owned by military personnel is valid for 45 days after the owner has returned to the United States. [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1993, c. 683, §A2 (NEW). PL 1993, c. 683, §B5 (AFF).

§354. Off-road vehicles

Off-road vehicles may not be registered in accordance with this Title. Vehicles owned and operated by government entities are not subject to the provisions of this section. [PL 2021, c. 216, §10 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2005, c. 577, §8 (NEW). PL 2021, c. 216, §10 (AMD).

ARTICLE 2

CERTIFICATES OF REGISTRATION

§401. Application

1. Filing of application. Application for vehicle registration may be made by mail or otherwise to the Secretary of State.
[PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

2. Content of application. An application must contain information requested by the Secretary of State, including legal name, residence and address of the registrant, current mileage of a motor vehicle, a brief description of the vehicle, the maker, the vehicle identification number, the year of manufacture, and the type of motor fuel or motive power and, for trucks, truck tractors and special mobile equipment, the gross weight. A registrant that is a corporation, trust, limited partnership or other similar entity must provide either a federal taxpayer identification number or an identification number issued by the department. An initial application for registration must be signed by the registrant or the registrant's legal representative. The Secretary of State shall keep initial applications on file until that registration is terminated.
[PL 2015, c. 473, §4 (AMD).]

3. Issuance of registration. The Secretary of State, on approving the application, shall issue:

A. A registration number or other distinguishing mark; and [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

B. A certificate of registration that contains the name, place of residence and address of the registered owner. The reverse side of the certificate of registration must provide a blank space in which the registered owner may write the legal name and address of an emergency contact. [PL 2025, c. 134, §1 (AMD).]
[PL 2025, c. 134, §1 (AMD).]

4. Refusal. The Secretary of State may refuse to register the vehicle or to issue a certificate if the applicant has not provided satisfactory information or if the Secretary of State determines that the type of vehicle should not be permitted to be on the highways of the State.
[PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

5. File. The Secretary of State shall maintain a file of applications and registrations arranged alphabetically according to the name of the applicant and numerically according to registration number.
[PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1993, c. 683, §A2 (NEW). PL 1993, c. 683, §B5 (AFF). PL 1995, c. 482, §B3 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 645, §B7 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 645, §B24 (AFF). PL 2001, c. 361, §6 (AMD). PL 2001, c. 361, §38 (AFF). RR 2009, c. 2, §81 (COR). PL 2015, c. 473, §4 (AMD). PL 2025, c. 134, §1 (AMD).

§402. Insurance required prior to registration

1. Insurance required. A person may not register a vehicle unless the person satisfies the Secretary of State that the vehicle is covered by a liability insurance policy.
[PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

2. Method of establishing evidence of insurance. A person establishes insurance by showing the vehicle insurance identification card as defined by section 1551, subsection 4, a letter from an insurance company or agent showing that the vehicle is covered by a liability insurance policy, an insurance binder or an insurance policy that has a summary document that describes the vehicle insured, the name of the insured, the amount of insurance, the type of insurance coverage and the period for which the vehicle is covered to either the municipal agent or the bureau. Evidence of insurance may be provided at the time of registration in electronic form, including the display of an image on a portable electronic device as defined in section 1551, subsection 11-A.
[PL 2013, c. 72, §2 (AMD).]

3. Alternative methods of establishing evidence of insurance. An individual is considered to comply with subsection 2 if the individual shows evidence of compliance with the provisions of section 1605, subsection 3, paragraph A, B or C.
[PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

4. Exceptions. The provisions of this section do not apply to:

A. Government vehicles as identified in section 517; [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

B. Vehicles owned or controlled by a dealer as defined by chapter 9; [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

C. Vehicles registered as vehicles for hire; or [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

D. Trailers and semitrailers. [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

[PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1993, c. 683, §A2 (NEW). PL 1993, c. 683, §B5 (AFF). PL 2013, c. 72, §2 (AMD).

§403. Motor vehicle emission inspection requirement for vehicle registration

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1993, c. 683, §A2 (NEW). PL 1993, c. 683, §B5 (AFF). PL 1995, c. 6, §1 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 49, §1 (RP). PL 1995, c. 50, §1 (RP). PL 1995, c. 625, §C4 (RP).

§404. Carrying of registration

1. Requirement. A certificate of registration, except a dealer certificate, must be carried on the person of the operator or occupant, or kept in some easily accessible place in the vehicle.
[PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

2. Dismissal. A person served with a Violation Summons and Complaint charging a violation of this section may have the complaint dismissed if that person shows satisfactory evidence that the vehicle was registered at the time of the alleged violation. The clerk of the District Court violations bureau must dismiss the complaint if, prior to the date required for filing an answer to the complaint, the person charged files with the bureau a copy of the Violation Summons and Complaint together with satisfactory evidence that the vehicle was registered at the time of the alleged violation. If a person files a timely answer to a Violation Summons and Complaint alleging a violation of this section and that person presents satisfactory evidence to the court at the time of trial showing that the vehicle was registered at the time of the alleged violation, the court must dismiss the complaint.
[PL 1999, c. 771, Pt. C, §1 (AMD); PL 1999, c. 771, Pt. D, §§1, 2 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1993, c. 683, §A2 (NEW). PL 1993, c. 683, §B5 (AFF). PL 1999, c. 771, §C1 (AMD). PL 1999, c. 771, §§D1,2 (AFF).

§405. Expiration dates

1. Automobile, truck, truck tractor, motor home, moped, semitrailers not exceeding a gross vehicle weight of 2,000 pounds, special mobile equipment, tractor and camp trailer registration. Registration for an automobile, truck, truck tractor, motor home, moped, semitrailer not exceeding a gross vehicle weight of 2,000 pounds, special mobile equipment, tractor and camp trailer is as follows.

A. A registration expires on the last day of the month one year from the month of issuance. [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

B. When an application is made after the registration for the previous year has expired, the term of the renewal begins on the month of the issuance of the previous registration. [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

C. A person who has a fleet of 5 or more motor vehicles may petition the Secretary of State for a common expiration date of all vehicle registrations. [PL 2001, c. 671, §5 (AMD).]

[PL 2011, c. 167, §1 (AMD); PL 2011, c. 167, §7 (AFF).]

2. Other vehicles. All vehicles not governed by subsection 1 have registration periods from March 1st to the last day of February of the next calendar year.

[PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

3. Early display of plates. A number plate or suitable device furnished for the next registration period may be displayed on the first day of the month in which the current registration expires.

[PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

4. Emergency. The Secretary of State may extend the expiration date of a registration under emergency conditions.

[PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1993, c. 683, §A2 (NEW). PL 1993, c. 683, §B5 (AFF). PL 2001, c. 361, §7 (AMD). PL 2001, c. 361, §38 (AFF). PL 2001, c. 671, §5 (AMD). PL 2005, c. 577, §9 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 167, §1 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 167, §7 (AFF).

§406. Nontransferability of certificate

A vehicle registration expires on the transfer of ownership except for a transfer to a surviving spouse. [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

1. Return of certificate.

[PL 2013, c. 496, §2 (RP).]

2. Issuance of new registration.

[PL 2013, c. 496, §2 (RP).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1993, c. 683, §A2 (NEW). PL 1993, c. 683, §B5 (AFF). PL 2013, c. 496, §2 (AMD).

§407. Defaced or missing identification numbers

1. Assignment of special number. When an engine, serial or vehicle identification number has been omitted, altered, removed or defaced, the Secretary of State shall assign and attach to the vehicle a special number and maintain a record of the number.

[PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

2. Violation. A person commits a Class E crime if that person sells, exchanges, offers to sell or exchange, transfers or uses a manufacturer's vehicle identification or serial number plate that has been removed from the vehicle to which it was originally attached.
[PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1993, c. 683, §A2 (NEW). PL 1993, c. 683, §B5 (AFF).

§408. Vehicles reported stolen

When the Secretary of State receives an application for registration of a vehicle previously reported as stolen, the Secretary of State shall notify the owner of that vehicle. The Secretary of State may withhold registration for further investigation. [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1993, c. 683, §A2 (NEW). PL 1993, c. 683, §B5 (AFF).

§409. Collection of taxes

1. Collection of tax. The Secretary of State shall act at the time and place of registration on behalf of the State Tax Assessor to collect the sales or use tax due under Title 36, Part 3 for a vehicle for which an original registration is required.
[PL 2017, c. 67, §1 (AMD).]

2. Documentation; payment of tax. Registration may not be issued, unless in addition to meeting the other registration requirements of this Title, the applicant has:

A. Submitted a properly completed bill of sale, showing either that:

(1) The sales tax due has been collected by the dealer; or

(2) The sale of the vehicle is not subject to tax; or [PL 2019, c. 397, §2 (AMD).]

B. Properly signed a use tax certificate in a form prescribed by the State Tax Assessor and:

(1) Paid the amount of tax due; or

(2) Shown that the sale or use of the vehicle is not subject to tax. [PL 2017, c. 67, §1 (AMD).]
[PL 2019, c. 397, §2 (AMD).]

3. Collection fee. The Secretary of State must be reimbursed by the State Tax Assessor $1.25 per use tax certificate processed, even if a certificate indicates that no use tax is due.

Retained fees must be transmitted to the Treasurer of State and credited to the Highway Fund.

Taxes collected must be transmitted to the Treasurer of State and credited to the General Fund.
[PL 2019, c. 397, §3 (AMD).]

4. Forwarding certificates. Certificates submitted pursuant to this section must be sent promptly to the State Tax Assessor.
[PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

5. Other taxes. A motor vehicle, mobile home or camp trailer may not be registered until the excise tax or personal property tax or real estate tax has been paid in accordance with Title 36, sections 551, 602, 1482 and 1484. The Secretary of State may provide municipal excise tax collectors with a standard vehicle registration form for the collection of excise tax.
[PL 2017, c. 67, §2 (AMD).]

6. Remedies cumulative. The provisions of this section are in addition to other methods for the collection of the sales or use tax.

[PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1993, c. 683, §A2 (NEW). PL 1993, c. 683, §B5 (AFF). PL 2011, c. 240, §1 (AMD). PL 2017, c. 67, §§1, 2 (AMD). PL 2019, c. 397, §§2, 3 (AMD).

§410. Voluntary surrender or cancellation

A registrant may voluntarily surrender vehicle registration. The Secretary of State shall record that the registration has been cancelled. The Secretary of State may require the return of any certificate of registration or registration plate issued to the registrant for the vehicle. The registrant may activate the registration at any time prior to the original expiration of the registration. [PL 2005, c. 433, §6 (AMD); PL 2005, c. 433, §28 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1995, c. 482, §A3 (NEW). PL 2005, c. 433, §6 (AMD). PL 2005, c. 433, §28 (AFF).

§411. Multi-year fleet registration

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of State may authorize registrants with 100 or more motor vehicle registrations to participate in a multi-year fleet registration program. Registrants shall elect a common expiration date for all vehicles placed in the multi-year fleet registration program. With permission of the Secretary of State, a registrant may establish more than one fleet. [PL 1995, c. 645, Pt. B, §8 (NEW); PL 1995, c. 645, Pt. B, §24 (AFF).]

Motor vehicles registered pursuant to a multi-year fleet registration program may be issued registration credentials for a period not to exceed 5 years. The Secretary of State shall establish a method for the annual verification and collection of appropriate registration fees and excise taxes. When municipal excise tax is required under Title 36, chapter 111, the person registering the motor vehicles shall pay the excise tax directly to the appropriate municipality. [PL 1995, c. 645, Pt. B, §8 (NEW); PL 1995, c. 645, Pt. B, §24 (AFF).]

The Secretary of State may adopt rules for the implementation of a multi-year fleet registration program. Rules adopted pursuant to this section are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter II-A. [PL 1995, c. 645, Pt. B, §8 (NEW); PL 1995, c. 645, Pt. B, §24 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1995, c. 645, §B8 (NEW). PL 1995, c. 645, §B24 (AFF).

ARTICLE 3

REGISTRATION PLATES

§451. Issuance and form of registration plates

1. Authority to issue registration plates. The Secretary of State shall provide a new general issue of registration plates periodically as determined by the Legislature. Each new general issue must be easily distinguishable by color from the preceding general issue.
[PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

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.
[PL 2023, c. 421, §1 (RPR).]

1-B. New dealer plate issue. The Secretary of State shall provide for a new issue of dealer plates and shall begin issuing the new dealer plates no later than December 31, 2000 to all dealers licensed pursuant to chapter 9, subchapter III.
[PL 1999, c. 473, Pt. G, §1 (AMD).]

2. Furnishing registration plates. The Secretary of State shall furnish registration plates, without charge, with each registration except to dealers, manufacturers and holders of transporter registration plates.
[PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

3. Annual registration plates or devices. The Secretary of State shall issue new registration plates or a suitable device in lieu of new registration plates each calendar year. The plate or device must clearly indicate the year or period for which it is issued. The Secretary of State may issue permanent registration plates designed to provide for renewal by changing the expiration date without issuing new registration plates. A device attached to the appropriate vehicle or registration plate is proper registration for the period specified.
[PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

4. Registration plate design. Registration plates must be designed as follows.

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. [PL 2023, c. 421, §2 (AMD).]

B. Except on motorcycle plates, registration plate numbers may not be substantially less than 3 inches high. [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

C. On registration plates issued for private use, the word "Vacationland" must be centered at the bottom, except, when the Secretary of State determines that for other than passenger vehicles, that space may be used for class identifiers. [PL 1997, c. 776, §8 (AMD).]

D. [PL 1995, c. 645, Pt. C, §2 (AMD); PL 1995, c. 645, Pt. C, §16 (AFF); MRSA T. 29-A §451, sub-§4, ¶ D (RP).]
[PL 2023, c. 421, §2 (AMD).]

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. [PL 2023, c. 421, §3 (RPR).]

B. Except on motorcycle plates, registration numbers may not be substantially less than 3 inches high. [PL 2023, c. 421, §3 (RPR).]

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. [PL 2023, c. 421, §3 (RPR).]

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 a blue star representing the North Star on the side of the plate; or

(2) Blue identification numbers and letters with no other features. [PL 2023, c. 421, §3 (RPR).]

E. The Secretary of State shall devise, with the advice of the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over transportation matters, a numbering system suitable for a new general issue of registration plates. [PL 2023, c. 421, §3 (RPR).]

[PL 2023, c. 421, §3 (RPR).]

5. Special classes of registration plates. A vehicle required to be registered in a special class under this Title may display only the number plates designed for that special class of registration. If a vehicle registered for hire is disabled due to an accident or mechanical malfunction, another vehicle of the same passenger capacity may be substituted temporarily. The substitute vehicle is subject to the financial responsibility requirements in section 1611. Notwithstanding this subsection, the Secretary of State may issue a temporary credential in lieu of a special class of registration plate. The Secretary of State may adopt rules to implement this subsection. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

[PL 2003, c. 434, §7 (AMD); PL 2003, c. 434, §37 (AFF).]

6. Plates to be manufactured at Bolduc Correctional Facility. The Secretary of State or the duly designated official in charge of vehicle registration shall purchase and cause to be installed at the Bolduc Correctional Facility the necessary equipment and materials for the production of all vehicle registration plates used in the State. Only plates that cannot be produced at Bolduc Correctional Facility and plates for which anticipated demand is below a minimum number determined by the Secretary of State may be purchased for state use.

The Warden of the State Prison has charge of operations at the Bolduc Correctional Facility relative to the manufacture of all plates made for the State. The Warden of the State Prison, with the consent of the Secretary of State, may employ for limited periods of time a supervisor for the purpose of instructing residents in the operation of making such plates.

For purposes of this subsection, "resident" means an individual who resides in the Bolduc Correctional Facility.

[PL 2023, c. 421, §4 (AMD).]

7. Rules. The Secretary of State may adopt rules to protect the integrity of registration plates or provide for the issue of replacement plates.

[PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1993, c. 683, §A2 (NEW). PL 1993, c. 683, §B5 (AFF). PL 1995, c. 65, §A86 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 65, §§A153,C15 (AFF). PL 1995, c. 645, §§C1-3 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 645, §C16 (AFF). PL 1997, c. 311, §1 (AMD). PL 1997, c. 776, §§7,8 (AMD). PL 1999, c. 473, §G1 (AMD). PL 2001, c. 671, §6 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 434, §7 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 434, §37 (AFF). PL 2023, c. 421, §§1-4 (AMD).

§452. Manner of display

1. Position of registration plate. A registration plate must be displayed horizontally. Only one set of Maine registration plates may be displayed on one vehicle. A registration plate must be attached to the front and the rear of each vehicle except as follows.

A. A trailer and semitrailer registration plate may be attached only to the rear of that trailer or semitrailer. [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

B. A motorcycle registration plate may not be attached to the front of that motorcycle. [PL 2005, c. 577, §10 (AMD).]

C. A manufacturer, dealer or transporter registration plate may be attached only to the rear of the vehicle. [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

D. A truck tractor registration plate may be attached only to the front of that truck tractor. [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

[PL 2005, c. 577, §10 (AMD).]

2. Farm trucks. The registration plate for a farm truck or vehicle used for hauling forest products may be attached by means of a rigid or semirigid bracket that allows the plate to swing freely.

[PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

3. Proper display. Registration plates must always be properly displayed.

[PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. Q, §2 (AMD); PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. X, §2 (AFF).]

4. Plainly visible and legible. Registration plates, including the numbers, letters and words, must always be plainly visible and legible.

[PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. Q, §3 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. X, §2 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1993, c. 683, §A2 (NEW). PL 1993, c. 683, §B5 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 452, §§Q2,3 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 452, §X2 (AFF). PL 2005, c. 577, §10 (AMD).

§453. Vanity registration plates

1. Vanity registration plates. The Secretary of State may issue registration plates that contain letters or a combination of letters and numbers for automobiles, taxi cabs, limousines, pickup trucks, trucks, motorcycles, motor homes or semitrailers and camp trailers. The number of characters appearing on a plate issued under this section may not exceed 7. The Secretary of State may not issue vanity plates for vehicles registered pursuant to section 504, subsection 2, or section 512, 531 or 532.

[PL 2001, c. 34, §1 (AMD).]

2. Fee. The annual administrative fee for a vanity registration plate is $25 in addition to the regular motor vehicle registration fee. The administrative fee must be credited to the General Highway Fund. A sum sufficient to defray the cost of this program must be allocated annually from the General Highway Fund.

[PL 2025, c. 9, Pt. F, §1 (AMD).]

3. Duplicate plates.

[PL 2003, c. 434, §8 (RP); PL 2003, c. 434, §37 (AFF).]

3-A. Restrictions. The Secretary of State may refuse to issue or may recall a vanity registration plate issued under this section that:

A. [PL 2015, c. 206, §2 (RP).]

B. [PL 2015, c. 206, §2 (RP).]

C. Falsely suggests an association with a public institution or a government or government agency; [PL 2021, c. 232, §1 (AMD).]

D. Is duplicative; [PL 2021, c. 232, §1 (AMD).]

E. Consists of language that encourages violence or may result in an act of violence or other unlawful activity because of the content of the language requested by the registrant; [PL 2021, c. 232, §1 (AMD).]

F. Is profane or obscene; [PL 2021, c. 232, §1 (NEW).]

G. Makes a derogatory reference to age, race, ethnicity, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, ancestry or national origin, religion or physical or mental disability; [PL 2021, c. 232, §1 (NEW).]

H. Connotes genitalia or relates to sexual acts; or [PL 2021, c. 232, §1 (NEW).]

I. Forms a slang term, abbreviation, phonetic spelling or mirror image of a word or term otherwise described in this subsection. [PL 2021, c. 232, §1 (NEW).]

[PL 2021, c. 232, §1 (AMD).]

3-B. Appeals. An individual may appeal the Secretary of State's decision to refuse to issue or decision to recall a vanity registration plate pursuant to subsection 3-A. The individual must file the appeal within 14 days from the date of the Secretary of State's initial decision with the vehicle services division of the bureau. In addition to following general hearing procedures as prescribed by section 2484, the appeal process must adhere to the same adjudicatory proceedings process, including notice, evidentiary standard and public participation provisions, as outlined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 4.

[PL 2021, c. 232, §2 (NEW).]

3-C. Rules. The Secretary of State may adopt routine technical rules pursuant to Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A to implement the provisions of this section.

[PL 2021, c. 232, §3 (NEW).]

4. Radio plates.

[PL 2013, c. 381, Pt. A, §1 (RP).]

5. Facsimile plates. The Secretary of State may issue a facsimile plate for a 60-day period during production of the semipermanent plate. The facsimile plate must be attached to the rear plate bracket.

[PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1993, c. 683, §A2 (NEW). PL 1993, c. 683, §B5 (AFF). RR 1997, c. 1, §26 (COR). PL 1997, c. 437, §6 (AMD). PL 1997, c. 776, §§9,10 (AMD). PL 2001, c. 34, §1 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 434, §§8,9 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 434, §37 (AFF). PL 2007, c. 647, §1 (AMD). PL 2007, c. 647, §8 (AFF). PL 2009, c. 435, §1 (AMD). PL 2013, c. 381, Pt. A, §1 (AMD). PL 2015, c. 206, §2 (AMD). PL 2019, c. 397, §4 (AMD). PL 2021, c. 216, §11 (AMD). PL 2021, c. 232, §§1-3 (AMD). PL 2025, c. 9, Pt. F, §1 (AMD).

§454. Commemorative registration plates

1. Commemorative registration plate authorized. The Secretary of State may authorize a state, county or municipal government or a subdivision of a state, county or municipal government to design and sell a reflectorized, commemorative, simulated registration plate in celebration of its centennial, bicentennial or sesquicentennial.

[PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

2. Display. A commemorative plate may be displayed to replace the front registration plate on a motor vehicle, except a truck tractor, including a motor vehicle registered outside this State and operated within it, from January 1st to December 31st of the year celebrated, except that a commemorative plate celebrating the bicentennial of the State may be displayed until December 31, 2021.

[PL 2021, c. 89, §1 (AMD); PL 2021, c. 89, §6 (AFF).]

3. Otherwise prohibited. A commemorative plate may not be sold or displayed except as provided in this section.

[PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1993, c. 683, §A2 (NEW). PL 1993, c. 683, §B5 (AFF). PL 2021, c. 89, §1 (AMD). PL 2021, c. 89, §6 (AFF).

§455. Environmental registration plates

The Secretary of State shall issue Maine Environmental Trust Fund registration plates beginning April 1, 1994 in accordance with this section. Environmental registration plates are not required for registration of a motor vehicle but are to allow citizens to participate voluntarily in the Maine Environmental Trust Fund program. A citizen may apply for environmental registration plates and contribute to the Maine Environmental Trust Fund as provided in this section. [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

1. Issuance of environmental registration plates. The Secretary of State, upon receiving an application and evidence of payment of the excise tax required by Title 36, the registration fee required by this Title and the contribution to the Maine Environmental Trust Fund provided for in subsection 4, shall issue a registration certificate and a set of environmental registration plates to be used in lieu of regular registration plates. The Secretary of State may issue environmental registration plates to a vehicle in any registration class if the designated registration plate for that class does not preclude its use in conjunction with the environmental registration plate design. The Secretary of State may issue environmental registration plates to certain state-owned vehicles in accordance with section 517.
[PL 1995, c. 65, Pt. A, §87 (AMD); PL 1995, c. 65, Pt. A, §153 (AFF); PL 1995, c. 65, Pt. C, §15 (AFF).]

2. Plate design; optional environmental vanity plates. The Secretary of State, the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, the Commissioner of Environmental Protection and the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife in consultation with the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over transportation matters shall determine the plate design.

The design must accommodate the use of numbers and letters as provided in section 453. Upon request and as provided by section 453, the Secretary of State shall issue environmental plates that are also vanity plates. Environmental vanity plates are issued in accordance with this section and section 453. The Secretary of State may modify class codes and create unique identifiers for the purpose of expanding the program.
[PL 2013, c. 496, §3 (AMD).]

3. Temporary facsimile plate. The Secretary of State may issue a facsimile plate for temporary use up to a 60-day period until the permanent plate is received. The facsimile plate must be attached to the rear plate bracket.
[PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

4. Initial contribution to Maine Environmental Trust Fund. In addition to the regular motor vehicle registration fee prescribed by law for the particular class of vehicle registered, the initial contribution for environmental registration plates is $20, which must be deposited with the Treasurer of State and credited as follows:

A. Fourteen dollars to the Maine Environmental Trust Fund established in Title 12, section 10255; [PL 2007, c. 703, §2 (NEW).]

B. Five dollars to the Highway Fund for administrative and production costs; and [PL 2007, c. 703, §2 (NEW).]

C. One dollar to the Specialty License Plate Fund established under section 469. [PL 2007, c. 703, §2 (NEW).]
[PL 2007, c. 703, §2 (AMD).]

4-A. Renewal fee. In addition to the regular motor vehicle registration fee prescribed by law for the particular class of vehicle registered, the annual renewal contribution for environmental registration plates is $15, which must be deposited with the Treasurer of State and credited as follows:

A. Fourteen dollars to the Maine Environmental Trust Fund established in Title 12, section 10255; and [PL 2007, c. 703, §2 (NEW).]

B. One dollar to the Specialty License Plate Fund established under section 469. [PL 2007, c. 703, §2 (NEW).]

[PL 2007, c. 703, §2 (NEW).]

5. Reimbursement for production and issuance costs.

[PL 2007, c. 703, §2 (RP).]

5-A. Transfer of fees. On a quarterly basis, the Secretary of State shall transfer the revenue from the issuance and renewal of the environmental registration plates to the Treasurer of State for deposit and crediting pursuant to subsections 4 and 4-A.

[PL 2007, c. 703, §2 (NEW).]

6. Proceeds from sale of products using the environmental plate design. All proceeds from the sale of products using the environmental registration plate design must be deposited with the Treasurer of State and credited to the Maine Environmental Trust Fund.

[PL 1995, c. 65, Pt. A, §88 (NEW); PL 1995, c. 65, Pt. A, §153 (AFF); PL 1995, c. 65, Pt. C, §15 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1993, c. 683, §A2 (NEW). PL 1993, c. 683, §B5 (AFF). PL 1995, c. 65, §§A87,88 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 65, §§A153,C15 (AFF). PL 1995, c. 256, §1 (AMD). PL 1997, c. 437, §7 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 414, §B45 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF). PL 2007, c. 703, §2 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. W, §6 (REV). PL 2013, c. 496, §3 (AMD).

§456. University of Maine System; special registration plates

1. University of Maine System plate. The Secretary of State, upon receiving an application and evidence of payment of the excise tax required by Title 36, section 1482, the registration fee required by section 501 or section 504 and the administrative fee and voluntary contribution provided for in subsection 2, shall issue a registration certificate and a set of University of Maine System registration plates to be used in lieu of regular registration plates. These plates must bear identification numbers and letters.

[PL 2017, c. 327, §1 (AMD).]

2. Administrative fee and contribution to University of Maine System Scholarship Fund. University of Maine System special registration plates are not required for registration of a motor vehicle. A person may contribute to the University of Maine System Scholarship Fund by applying for the special registration plates and submitting, in addition to the regular motor vehicle registration fee, a sum of $20, which must be deposited with the Treasurer of State and credited as follows:

A. Fourteen dollars to the University of Maine System Scholarship Fund established in Title 20-A, section 10909; [PL 2007, c. 703, §3 (AMD).]

B. Five dollars to the Highway Fund for administrative and production costs; and [PL 2007, c. 703, §3 (AMD).]

C. One dollar to the Specialty License Plate Fund established under section 469. [PL 2007, c. 703, §3 (NEW).]

[PL 2007, c. 703, §3 (AMD).]

3. Design. The Secretary of State shall determine a design for the special University of Maine System plates. If the design accommodates the use of numbers and letters as provided in section 453, the Secretary of State shall issue upon request University of Maine System plates that are also vanity plates. University of Maine System vanity plates are issued in accordance with the provisions of this section and section 453.

[PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

4. Not transferable.

[PL 1995, c. 65, Pt. A, §153 (AFF); PL 1995, c. 65, Pt. C, §2 (RP); PL 1995, c. 65, Pt. C, §15 (AFF).]

5. Renewal fee. In addition to the regular motor vehicle registration fee prescribed by law, the annual renewal contribution for University of Maine System registration plates is $15, which must be deposited with the Treasurer of State and credited as follows:

A. Thirteen dollars to the University of Maine System Scholarship Fund established in Title 20-A, section 10909; [PL 2007, c. 703, §3 (AMD).]

B. One dollar to the Highway Fund; and [PL 2007, c. 703, §3 (AMD).]

C. One dollar to the Specialty License Plate Fund established under section 469. [PL 2007, c. 703, §3 (NEW).]

[PL 2007, c. 703, §3 (AMD).]

6. Reimbursement for production and issuance costs.
[PL 2007, c. 703, §3 (RP).]

6-A. Transfer of fees. On a quarterly basis, the Secretary of State shall transfer the revenue from the issuance and renewal of the University of Maine System registration plates to the Treasurer of State for deposit and crediting pursuant to subsections 2 and 5.
[PL 2007, c. 703, §3 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1993, c. 683, §A2 (NEW). PL 1993, c. 683, §B5 (AFF). PL 1995, c. 65, §§A153,C15 (AFF). PL 1995, c. 65, §C2 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 645, §A2 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 645, §A18 (AFF). PL 2005, c. 109, §§4,5 (AMD). PL 2007, c. 703, §3 (AMD). PL 2017, c. 327, §1 (AMD).

§456-A. Lobster registration plates

1. Lobster plates. The Secretary of State, upon receiving an application and evidence of payment of the excise tax required by Title 36, section 1482, the annual motor vehicle registration fee required by section 501 or section 504 and the contribution provided for in subsection 2, shall issue a registration certificate and a set of lobster special registration plates to be used in lieu of regular registration plates. These plates must bear identification numbers and letters. The Secretary of State may issue lobster plates to certain state-owned vehicles in accordance with section 517.
[PL 2017, c. 327, §2 (AMD).]

2. Contribution to Lobster Research, Education and Development Fund. In addition to the regular motor vehicle registration fee prescribed by law for the particular class of vehicle registered, the initial contribution for lobster plates is $20, which must be deposited with the Treasurer of State and credited as follows:

A. Ten dollars to the Lobster Research, Education and Development Fund established in Title 12, section 6465; [PL 2007, c. 703, §4 (AMD).]

B. Nine dollars to the Highway Fund for administrative and production costs; and [PL 2007, c. 703, §4 (AMD).]

C. One dollar to the Specialty License Plate Fund established under section 469. [PL 2007, c. 703, §4 (NEW).]

[PL 2007, c. 703, §4 (AMD).]

3. Design. The Secretary of State, in consultation with the Maine Lobster Marketing Collaborative under Title 12, section 6455-A, shall determine a design for the lobster special registration plates. The joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over transportation matters shall review the final design prior to manufacture of the plates. The Secretary of State shall issue upon request

lobster plates that are also vanity plates. Lobster plates are issued in accordance with the provisions of this section and section 453.
[PL 2021, c. 491, §4 (AMD); PL 2021, c. 491, §7 (AFF).]

4. Renewal fee. In addition to the regular motor vehicle registration fee prescribed by law, the annual renewal contribution for lobster special registration plates is $15, which must be deposited with the Treasurer of State and credited as follows:

A. Ten dollars to the Lobster Research, Education and Development Fund established in Title 12, section 6465; [PL 2007, c. 703, §4 (AMD).]

B. Four dollars to the Highway Fund for administrative and production costs; and [PL 2007, c. 703, §4 (AMD).]

C. One dollar to the Specialty License Plate Fund established under section 469. [PL 2007, c. 703, §4 (NEW).]
[PL 2007, c. 703, §4 (AMD).]

5. Reimbursement for production and issuance costs for first 2,000 plates.
[PL 2007, c. 703, §4 (RP).]

6. Reimbursement for production and issuance costs for plates produced after first 2,000 plates.
[PL 2007, c. 703, §4 (RP).]

6-A. Transfer of fees. On a quarterly basis, the Secretary of State shall transfer the revenue from the issuance and renewal of the lobster registration plates to the Treasurer of State for deposit and crediting pursuant to subsections 2 and 4.
[PL 2007, c. 703, §4 (NEW).]

7. Duplicate plates. The Secretary of State shall issue a lobster plate in a 3-number and 3-letter combination sequence. Vanity plates may not duplicate vanity plates issued in another class of plate.
[PL 2001, c. 623, §4 (NEW).]

8. Eligibility; trucks.

[PL 2015, c. 473, §§5, 6 (AMD); PL 2017, c. 327, §3 (RP).]

9. Date of first issue. The Secretary of State shall issue the first lobster plate on or after May 1, 2003.
[PL 2001, c. 623, §4 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2001, c. 623, §4 (NEW). PL 2007, c. 383, §3 (AMD). PL 2007, c. 703, §4 (AMD). PL 2009, c. 435, §2 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 356, §3 (AMD). PL 2013, c. 309, §4 (AMD). PL 2015, c. 473, §§5, 6 (AMD). PL 2017, c. 327, §§2, 3 (AMD). PL 2021, c. 491, §4 (AMD). PL 2021, c. 491, §7 (AFF).

§456-B. Maine Black Bears registration plates

1. Maine Black Bears plates. The Secretary of State, upon receiving an application and evidence of payment of the excise tax required by Title 36, section 1482, the annual motor vehicle registration fee required by section 501 or section 504 and the contribution provided for in subsection 2, shall issue a registration certificate and a set of Maine Black Bears special registration plates to be used in lieu of regular registration plates. These plates must bear identification numbers and letters.
[PL 2017, c. 327, §4 (AMD).]

2. Contribution to Maine Black Bears Scholarship Fund. In addition to the regular motor vehicle registration fee prescribed by law for the particular class of vehicle registered, the initial

contribution for Maine Black Bears plates is $20, which must be deposited with the Treasurer of State and credited as follows:

A. Ten dollars to the Maine Black Bears Scholarship Fund established in Title 20-A, section 10971; [PL 2007, c. 703, §5 (AMD).]

B. Nine dollars to the Highway Fund for administrative and production costs; and [PL 2007, c. 703, §5 (AMD).]

C. One dollar to the Specialty License Plate Fund established under section 469. [PL 2007, c. 703, §5 (NEW).]

[PL 2007, c. 703, §5 (AMD).]

3. Design. The Secretary of State, in consultation with the alumni association of the University of Maine, shall determine a design for the Maine Black Bears special registration plates. The joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over transportation matters shall review the final design prior to manufacture of the plates. The Secretary of State shall issue upon request Maine Black Bears plates that are also vanity plates. Maine Black Bears plates are issued in accordance with the provisions of this section and section 453.

[PL 2001, c. 623, §4 (NEW).]

4. Renewal fee. In addition to the regular motor vehicle registration fee prescribed by law, the annual renewal contribution for Maine Black Bears special registration plates is $15, which must be deposited with the Treasurer of State and credited as follows:

A. Ten dollars to the Maine Black Bears Scholarship Fund established in Title 20-A, section 10971; [PL 2007, c. 703, §5 (AMD).]

B. Four dollars to the Highway Fund for administrative and production costs; and [PL 2007, c. 703, §5 (AMD).]

C. One dollar to the Specialty License Plate Fund established under section 469. [PL 2007, c. 703, §5 (NEW).]

[PL 2007, c. 703, §5 (AMD).]

5. Reimbursement for production and issuance costs for first 2,000 plates.

[PL 2007, c. 703, §5 (RP).]

6. Reimbursement for production and issuance costs for plates produced after first 2,000 plates.

[PL 2007, c. 703, §5 (RP).]

6-A. Transfer of fees. On a quarterly basis, the Secretary of State shall transfer the revenue from the issuance and renewal of the Maine Black Bears special registration plates to the Treasurer of State for deposit and crediting pursuant to subsections 2 and 4.

[PL 2007, c. 703, §5 (NEW).]

7. Duplicate plates. The Secretary of State shall issue a Maine Black Bears plate in a 3-number and 3-letter combination sequence. Vanity plates may not duplicate vanity plates issued in another class of plate.

[PL 2001, c. 623, §4 (NEW).]

8. Weight limit.

[PL 2017, c. 327, §5 (RP).]

9. Date of first issue. The Secretary of State shall issue the first Maine Black Bears plate on or after November 1, 2003.

[PL 2001, c. 623, §4 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2001, c. 623, §4 (NEW). PL 2007, c. 383, §4 (AMD). PL 2007, c. 703, §5 (AMD). PL 2017, c. 327, §§4, 5 (AMD).

§456-C. Sportsman registration plates

1. Sportsman registration plates. The Secretary of State, upon receiving an application and evidence of payment of the registration fee required by section 501 or section 504 and the excise tax required by Title 36, section 1482, shall issue a registration certificate and a set of sportsman plates to be used in lieu of regular registration plates. These plates must bear identification numbers and letters. Vanity plates may not duplicate vanity plates issued in another class of plate. The Secretary of State shall begin issuing sportsman registration plates by April 1, 2008. Sportsman vanity plates are issued in accordance with this section and section 453.
[PL 2017, c. 327, §6 (AMD).]

2. Initial registration fee. In addition to the regular motor vehicle registration fee prescribed by law, the initial contribution for the sportsman registration plate is $20, which must be deposited with the Treasurer of State and credited as follows:

A. Fourteen dollars to the Boat Launch Facilities Fund established in Title 12, section 10261; [PL 2007, c. 703, §6 (NEW).]

B. Five dollars to the Highway Fund for administrative and production costs; and [PL 2007, c. 703, §6 (NEW).]

C. One dollar to the Specialty License Plate Fund established under section 469. [PL 2007, c. 703, §6 (NEW).]
[PL 2007, c. 703, §6 (AMD).]

3. Renewal fee. In addition to the regular motor vehicle registration fee prescribed by law, the annual renewal contribution for sportsman registration plates is $20, which must be deposited with the Treasurer of State and credited as follows:

A. Eighteen dollars credited as follows:

(1) Fifty percent to the fish hatchery maintenance fund established in Title 12, section 10252;

(2) Fifteen percent to the Boat Launch Facilities Fund established in Title 12, section 10261;

(3) Ten percent to the Maine Endangered and Nongame Wildlife Fund established in Title 12, section 10253; and

(4) Twenty-five percent to the landowner relations program in Title 12, section 10108, subsection 4-A; [PL 2011, c. 576, §7 (AMD).]

B. One dollar to the Highway Fund for administrative and production costs; and [PL 2007, c. 703, §6 (NEW).]

C. One dollar to the Specialty License Plate Fund established under section 469. [PL 2007, c. 703, §6 (NEW).]
[PL 2011, c. 576, §7 (AMD).]

4. Issuance. The Secretary of State shall issue a sportsman registration plate in a combination of a number and letter sequence.
[PL 2023, c. 271, §3 (AMD).]

5. Design and approval.
[PL 2019, c. 397, §5 (RP).]

6. Transfer of fees. On a quarterly basis, the Secretary of State shall transfer the revenue from the issuance and renewal of the sportsman registration plates to the Treasurer of State for deposit and crediting pursuant to subsections 2 and 3.

[PL 2007, c. 703, §6 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2005, c. 12, §III44 (NEW). PL 2005, c. 405, §N1 (AMD). PL 2007, c. 240, Pt. LLLL, §2 (AMD). PL 2007, c. 703, §6 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 576, §7 (AMD). PL 2013, c. 496, §4 (AMD). PL 2017, c. 327, §6 (AMD). PL 2019, c. 397, §5 (AMD). PL 2023, c. 271, §3 (AMD).

§456-D. We Support Our Troops registration plates

The Secretary of State shall issue registration plates, referred to in this section as "We Support Our Troops plates," to support Maine troops and their families in accordance with this section and section 468, except that the provisions of section 468, subsection 7 do not apply. [PL 2007, c. 703, §7 (RPR).]

1. We Support Our Troops plates. The Secretary of State, upon receiving an application and evidence of payment of the excise tax required by Title 36, section 1482, the registration fee required by section 501 or section 504 and the administrative fee and contribution provided for in subsection 2, shall issue a registration certificate and a set of We Support Our Troops plates to be used in lieu of regular registration plates. These plates must bear identification numbers and letters.
[PL 2017, c. 327, §7 (AMD).]

2. Administrative fee and contribution to special programs. A person may contribute funds for the purposes of providing financial assistance to members of the Maine National Guard and their families or residents of the State who are members of the Reserves of the Armed Forces of the United States and their families for emergencies and other special needs by applying for the We Support Our Troops plates and submitting, in addition to the regular motor vehicle registration fee required under section 501, a sum of $20, which must be deposited with the Treasurer of State and credited as follows:

A. Ten dollars to the Maine Military Family Relief Fund as established in Title 37-B, section 158; [PL 2009, c. 481, §2 (AMD).]

B. Nine dollars to the Highway Fund for administrative and production costs; and [PL 2007, c. 703, §7 (RPR).]

C. One dollar to the Specialty License Plate Fund established under section 469. [PL 2007, c. 703, §7 (NEW).]
[PL 2009, c. 481, §2 (AMD).]

3. Renewal fee. In addition to the regular motor vehicle registration fee required under section 501, the annual renewal contribution for We Support Our Troops plates is $15, which must be deposited with the Treasurer of State and credited as follows:

A. Ten dollars to the Maine Military Family Relief Fund as established in Title 37-B, section 158; [PL 2009, c. 481, §3 (AMD).]

B. Four dollars to the Highway Fund for administrative and production costs; and [PL 2007, c. 703, §7 (RPR).]

C. One dollar to the Specialty License Plate Fund established under section 469. [PL 2007, c. 703, §7 (NEW).]
[PL 2009, c. 481, §3 (AMD).]

4. Design. A sponsor must submit a design for the We Support Our Troops plates to the Secretary of State for approval or modification in accordance with section 468, subsection 1-B. The design must include the shape of the boundaries of the State of Maine, with an image of a curled ribbon superimposed over the shape of the State, with the words "We Support Our Troops" printed along the bottom of the plate. The Secretary of State shall provide the final design to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over transportation matters prior to manufacture of the plates. The

Secretary of State shall issue upon request We Support Our Troops plates that are also vanity plates. We Support Our Troops plates are issued in accordance with the provisions of this section and section 453.
[PL 2023, c. 271, §4 (AMD).]

5. Duplicate plates prohibited. The Secretary of State shall issue a We Support Our Troops plate in a 3-number and 3-letter combination sequence. Vanity plates may not duplicate vanity plates issued in another class of plate.
[PL 2007, c. 703, §7 (RPR).]

6. Weight limit.
[PL 2017, c. 327, §8 (RP).]

7. Administration of fees. On a quarterly basis, the Secretary of State shall transfer the revenue from the issuance and renewal of the We Support Our Troops plates to the Treasurer of State for deposit and crediting pursuant to subsections 2 and 3.

The Treasurer of State shall reimburse the sponsor $20,000 of the original payment from the Highway Fund after the issuance of the first 2,000 registration plates under this section.
[PL 2009, c. 481, §4 (AMD).]

8. We Support Our Troops Advisory Board.

[PL 2009, c. 481, §5 (RP).]

9. Date of first issue.
[PL 2007, c. 703, §7 (RP).]

SECTION HISTORY

RR 2007, c. 1, §13 (COR). PL 2007, c. 229, §2 (NEW). PL 2007, c. 456, §3 (NEW). PL 2007, c. 703, §7 (RPR). PL 2009, c. 481, §§2-5 (AMD). PL 2017, c. 327, §§7, 8 (AMD). PL 2023, c. 271, §4 (AMD).

§456-E. Breast cancer support services registration plate

1. Breast cancer support services plates. The Secretary of State, upon receiving an application and evidence of payment of the excise tax required by Title 36, section 1482, the annual motor vehicle registration fee required by section 501 or section 504 and the contribution provided for in subsection 2, shall issue a registration certificate and a set of breast cancer support services special registration plates to be used in lieu of regular registration plates. These plates must bear identification numbers and letters.
[PL 2017, c. 327, §9 (AMD).]

2. Contribution; credit to Breast Cancer Services Special Program Fund. In addition to the regular motor vehicle registration fee prescribed by law for the particular class of vehicle registered, the initial contribution for the breast cancer support services special registration plates is $20, which must be deposited with the Treasurer of State and credited as follows:

A. Ten dollars to the Breast Cancer Services Special Program Fund, as established in Title 22, section 1408; [PL 2007, c. 703, §8 (AMD).]

B. Nine dollars to the Highway Fund for administrative and production costs; and [PL 2007, c. 703, §8 (AMD).]

C. One dollar to the Specialty License Plate Fund established under section 469. [PL 2007, c. 703, §8 (AMD).]
[PL 2007, c. 703, §8 (AMD).]

3. Design; review; vanity plates. The Secretary of State, in consultation with the plate sponsor, shall determine a design for the breast cancer support services special registration plates. The joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over transportation matters shall review the final design prior to manufacture of the plates. The Secretary of State shall issue upon request breast cancer support services special registration plates that are also vanity plates. Breast cancer support services special registration plates are issued in accordance with the provisions of this section and section 453.
[PL 2007, c. 547, §2 (NEW).]

4. Renewal fee. In addition to the regular motor vehicle registration fee prescribed by law, the annual renewal contribution for breast cancer support services special registration plates is $15, which must be deposited with the Treasurer of State and credited as follows:

A. Ten dollars to the Breast Cancer Services Special Program Fund, as established in Title 22, section 1408; [PL 2007, c. 703, §9 (AMD).]

B. Four dollars to the Highway Fund for administrative and production costs; and [PL 2007, c. 703, §9 (AMD).]

C. One dollar to the Specialty License Plate Fund established under section 469. [PL 2007, c. 703, §9 (AMD).]
[PL 2007, c. 703, §9 (AMD).]

5. Payment for costs associated with the production and issuance of the first 2,000 plates. The sponsor of the breast cancer support services special registration plates shall provide $40,000 to the Secretary of State for costs associated with the production and issuance of plates. The Secretary of State shall deposit these funds in the Specialty License Plate Fund, established under section 469. In accordance with section 468, subsection 3-A, the Secretary of State shall provide 2,000 credit receipts to the sponsor to provide to each supporter that contributed $20. A credit receipt may be used only to obtain one set of breast cancer support services special registration plates.
[PL 2007, c. 547, §2 (NEW).]

6. Transfer of fees. On a quarterly basis, the Secretary of State shall transfer the revenue from the issuance and renewal of the breast cancer support services special registration plates to the Treasurer of State for deposit and crediting pursuant to subsections 2 and 4.
[PL 2007, c. 547, §2 (NEW).]

7. Duplicate plates. The Secretary of State shall issue breast cancer support services special registration plates in a 3-number and 3-letter combination sequence. Vanity plates may not duplicate vanity plates issued in another class of plate.
[PL 2007, c. 547, §2 (NEW).]

8. Weight limit.
[PL 2017, c. 327, §10 (RP).]

9. Date of first issue. The Secretary of State shall issue breast cancer support services special registration plates on or after October 1, 2008.
[PL 2007, c. 547, §2 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2007, c. 547, §2 (NEW). PL 2007, c. 703, §8, 9 (AMD). PL 2017, c. 327, §§9, 10 (AMD).

§456-F. Agriculture education registration plate

1. Agriculture education plates. The Secretary of State, upon receiving an application and evidence of payment of the excise tax required by Title 36, section 1482, the annual motor vehicle registration fee required by section 501, section 504, subsection 1 or section 505 and the contribution provided for in subsection 2, shall issue a registration certificate and a set of agriculture education

special registration plates to be used in lieu of regular registration plates. These plates must bear identification numbers and letters. The Secretary of State may issue agricultural education plates to certain state-owned vehicles in accordance with section 517.
[PL 2009, c. 435, §3 (AMD).]

2. Contribution; credit to Agriculture Education Plate Fund. In addition to the regular motor vehicle registration fee prescribed by law for the particular class of vehicle registered, the initial contribution for agriculture education plates is $20, which must be deposited with the Treasurer of State and credited as follows:

A. Ten dollars to the Maine Agriculture in the Classroom Council established in Title 5, section 12004-G, subsection 4-C; [PL 2007, c. 703, §10 (NEW).]

B. Nine dollars to the Highway Fund for administrative and production costs; and [PL 2007, c. 703, §10 (NEW).]

C. One dollar to the Specialty License Plate Fund established under section 469. [PL 2007, c. 703, §10 (NEW).]
[PL 2007, c. 703, §10 (NEW).]

3. Design; review; vanity plates. The Secretary of State, in consultation with the Maine Agriculture in the Classroom Association, shall determine a design for the agriculture education special registration plates. The joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over transportation matters shall review the final design prior to manufacture of the plates. The Secretary of State shall issue upon request agriculture education plates that are also vanity plates. Agriculture education plates are issued in accordance with the provisions of this section and section 453.
[PL 2007, c. 703, §10 (NEW).]

4. Renewal fee. In addition to the regular motor vehicle registration fee prescribed by law, the annual renewal contribution for agriculture education special registration plates is $15, which must be deposited with the Treasurer of State and credited as follows:

A. Ten dollars to the Maine Agriculture in the Classroom Council established in Title 5, section 12004-G, subsection 4-C; [PL 2007, c. 703, §10 (NEW).]

B. Four dollars to the Highway Fund for administrative and production costs; and [PL 2007, c. 703, §10 (NEW).]

C. One dollar to the Specialty License Plate Fund established under section 469. [PL 2007, c. 703, §10 (NEW).]
[PL 2007, c. 703, §10 (NEW).]

5. Transfer of fees. On a quarterly basis, the Secretary of State shall transfer the revenue from the issuance and renewal of the agriculture education registration plates to the Treasurer of State for deposit and crediting pursuant to subsections 2 and 4.
[PL 2007, c. 703, §10 (NEW).]

6. Duplicate plates. The Secretary of State shall issue an agriculture education plate in a 3-number and 3-letter combination sequence. Vanity plates may not duplicate vanity plates issued in another class of plate.
[PL 2023, c. 271, §5 (AMD).]

7. Eligibility; trucks. An agriculture education registration plate may be issued for:

A. A vehicle that qualifies for a specialty license plate under section 468, subsection 8; and [PL 2007, c. 703, §10 (NEW).]

B. A truck registered under section 504, subsection 1. [PL 2015, c. 473, §7 (AMD).]
[PL 2015, c. 473, §7 (AMD).]

8. Date of first issue. The Secretary of State shall issue the first agriculture plate no later than October 1, 2007.
[PL 2007, c. 703, §10 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2007, c. 703, §10 (NEW). PL 2009, c. 435, §3 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 556, §3 (AMD). PL 2015, c. 473, §7 (AMD). PL 2023, c. 271, §5 (AMD).

§456-G. Support Animal Welfare registration plate

1. Support Animal Welfare plates. The Secretary of State, upon receiving an application and evidence of payment of the excise tax required by Title 36, section 1482, the annual motor vehicle registration fee required by section 501 or section 504 and the contribution provided for in subsection 2, shall issue a registration certificate and a set of Support Animal Welfare special registration plates to be used in lieu of regular registration plates.
[PL 2017, c. 327, §11 (AMD).]

2. Contribution; credit to funds. In addition to the regular motor vehicle registration fee prescribed by law for the particular class of vehicle registered, the initial contribution for Support Animal Welfare special registration plates is $20, which must be deposited with the Treasurer of State and credited as follows:

A. Five dollars to the animal welfare auxiliary fund pursuant to Title 7, section 3906-B, subsection 16; [PL 2009, c. 73, §1 (NEW).]

B. Five dollars to the Companion Animal Sterilization Fund established in Title 7, section 3910-B; [PL 2009, c. 73, §1 (NEW).]

C. Nine dollars to the Highway Fund for administrative and production costs; [PL 2009, c. 73, §1 (NEW).]

D. One dollar to the Specialty License Plate Fund established under section 469. [PL 2009, c. 73, §1 (NEW).]
[PL 2009, c. 73, §1 (NEW).]

3. Design; review; vanity plates. The Secretary of State, in consultation with private businesses and nonprofit organizations concerned with animal welfare, shall determine a design for the Support Animal Welfare special registration plates. The joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over transportation matters shall review the final design prior to manufacture of the plates. The Secretary of State shall issue upon request Support Animal Welfare special registration plates that are also vanity plates. Support Animal Welfare special registration plates are issued in accordance with the provisions of this section and section 453.
[PL 2009, c. 73, §1 (NEW).]

4. Renewal fee. In addition to the regular motor vehicle registration fee prescribed by law, the annual renewal contribution for Support Animal Welfare special registration plates is $15, which must be deposited with the Treasurer of State and credited as follows:

A. Five dollars to the animal welfare auxiliary fund pursuant to Title 7, section 3906-B, subsection 16; [PL 2009, c. 73, §1 (NEW).]

B. Five dollars to the Companion Animal Sterilization Fund established in Title 7, section 3910-B; [PL 2009, c. 73, §1 (NEW).]

C. Four dollars to the Highway Fund for administrative and production costs; [PL 2009, c. 73, §1 (NEW).]

D. One dollar to the Specialty License Plate Fund established under section 469. [PL 2009, c. 73, §1 (NEW).]

[PL 2009, c. 73, §1 (NEW).]

5. Payment for costs associated with the production and issuance of the first 2,000 plates. The sponsor of the Support Animal Welfare special registration plates shall provide $50,000 to the Secretary of State for costs associated with the production and issuance of plates. The Secretary of State shall deposit these funds in the Specialty License Plate Fund established under section 469. In accordance with section 468, subsection 3-A, the Secretary of State shall provide 2,000 credit receipts to the sponsor to provide to each supporter who contributed $25. A credit receipt may be used only to obtain one set of Support Animal Welfare special registration plates.
[PL 2009, c. 73, §1 (NEW).]

6. Transfer of fees. On a quarterly basis, the Secretary of State shall transfer the revenue from the issuance and renewal of the Support Animal Welfare special registration plates to the Treasurer of State for deposit and crediting pursuant to subsections 2 and 4.
[PL 2009, c. 73, §1 (NEW).]

7. Duplicate plates. The Secretary of State shall issue a Support Animal Welfare special registration plate in a unique 3-number and 3-letter combination sequence. Vanity plates may not duplicate vanity plates issued in another class of plate.
[PL 2009, c. 73, §1 (NEW).]

8. Weight limit.
[PL 2017, c. 327, §12 (RP).]

9. Date of first issue. The Secretary of State shall issue the first Support Animal Welfare special registration plate no later than October 1, 2009.
[PL 2009, c. 73, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2009, c. 73, §1 (NEW). PL 2017, c. 327, §§11, 12 (AMD).

§456-H. The Barbara Bush Children's Hospital registration plates

1. The Barbara Bush Children's Hospital registration plates. The Secretary of State, upon receiving an application and evidence of payment of the excise tax required by Title 36, section 1482, the annual motor vehicle registration fee required by section 501 or 504 and the contribution provided for in subsection 3, shall issue a registration certificate and a set of The Barbara Bush Children's Hospital special registration plates to be used in lieu of regular registration plates.
[PL 2017, c. 400, §1 (NEW).]

2. Design; review; vanity plates. The Secretary of State, in consultation with The Barbara Bush Children's Hospital, shall determine a design for The Barbara Bush Children's Hospital special registration plates. The joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over transportation matters shall review the final design prior to manufacture of the plates. The Secretary of State shall issue upon request The Barbara Bush Children's Hospital special registration plates that are also vanity plates. The Barbara Bush Children's Hospital special registration plates are issued in accordance with the provisions of this section and section 453.
[PL 2017, c. 400, §1 (NEW).]

3. Contribution; credit to funds. In addition to the regular motor vehicle registration fee prescribed by law for the particular class of vehicle registered, the initial contribution for The Barbara Bush Children's Hospital special registration plates is $20, which must be deposited with the Treasurer of State and credited as follows:

A. Ten dollars to The Barbara Bush Children's Hospital to support ongoing pediatric programs;
[PL 2017, c. 400, §1 (NEW).]

B. Nine dollars to the Highway Fund for administrative and production costs; and [PL 2017, c. 400, §1 (NEW).]

C. One dollar to the Specialty License Plate Fund established under section 469. [PL 2017, c. 400, §1 (NEW).]

[PL 2017, c. 400, §1 (NEW).]

4. Renewal fee. In addition to the regular motor vehicle registration fee prescribed by law, the annual renewal contribution for The Barbara Bush Children's Hospital special registration plates is $15, which must be deposited with the Treasurer of State and credited as follows:

A. Ten dollars to The Barbara Bush Children's Hospital to support ongoing pediatric programs; [PL 2017, c. 400, §1 (NEW).]

B. Four dollars to the Highway Fund for administrative and production costs; and [PL 2017, c. 400, §1 (NEW).]

C. One dollar to the Specialty License Plate Fund established under section 469. [PL 2017, c. 400, §1 (NEW).]

[PL 2017, c. 400, §1 (NEW).]

5. Payment for costs associated with the production and issuance of the first 2,000 plates. The sponsor of The Barbara Bush Children's Hospital special registration plates shall provide $50,000 to the Secretary of State for costs associated with the production and issuance of The Barbara Bush Children's Hospital registration plates. The Secretary of State shall deposit these funds in the Specialty License Plate Fund established under section 469. In accordance with section 468, subsection 3-A, the Secretary of State shall provide 2,000 credit receipts to the sponsor to provide to each supporter who contributed $25. A credit receipt may be used only to obtain one set of special registration plates.
[PL 2017, c. 400, §1 (NEW).]

6. Transfer of fees. On a quarterly basis, the Secretary of State shall transfer the revenue from the issuance and renewal of The Barbara Bush Children's Hospital special registration plates to the Treasurer of State for deposit and crediting pursuant to subsections 3 and 4.
[PL 2017, c. 400, §1 (NEW).]

7. Duplicate plates prohibited. The Secretary of State shall issue The Barbara Bush Children's Hospital special registration plate in a unique 3-number and 3-letter combination sequence. Vanity plates may not duplicate vanity plates issued in another class of plate.
[PL 2017, c. 400, §1 (NEW).]

8. Date of first issue. The Secretary of State shall issue the first The Barbara Bush Children's Hospital special registration plate by October 1, 2018.
[PL 2017, c. 400, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2017, c. 400, §1 (NEW).

§456-I. Maine Lighthouse Trust registration plates

1. Maine Lighthouse Trust registration plates. The Secretary of State, upon receiving an application and evidence of payment of the excise tax required by Title 36, section 1482, the annual motor vehicle registration fee required by section 501 or 504 and the contribution provided for in subsection 3, shall issue a registration certificate and a set of Maine Lighthouse Trust special registration plates to be used in lieu of regular registration plates.
[PL 2021, c. 56, §1 (NEW).]

2. Design; review; vanity plates. The Secretary of State, in consultation with the Maine Lighthouse Trust, shall determine a design for the Maine Lighthouse Trust special registration plates.

The joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over transportation matters shall review the final design prior to manufacture of the plates. The Secretary of State shall issue upon request Maine Lighthouse Trust special registration plates that are also vanity plates. Maine Lighthouse Trust special registration plates are issued in accordance with the provisions of this section and section 453.
[PL 2021, c. 56, §1 (NEW).]

3. Contribution; credit to funds. In addition to the regular motor vehicle registration fee prescribed by law for the particular class of vehicle registered, the initial contribution for Maine Lighthouse Trust special registration plates is $20, which must be deposited with the Treasurer of State and credited as follows:

A. Ten dollars to the Maine Lighthouse Trust to support lighthouse restoration and preservation efforts; [PL 2021, c. 56, §1 (NEW).]

B. Nine dollars to the Highway Fund for administrative and production costs; and [PL 2021, c. 56, §1 (NEW).]

C. One dollar to the Specialty License Plate Fund established under section 469. [PL 2021, c. 56, §1 (NEW).]
[PL 2021, c. 56, §1 (NEW).]

4. Renewal fee. In addition to the regular motor vehicle registration fee prescribed by law, the annual renewal contribution for Maine Lighthouse Trust special registration plates is $15, which must be deposited with the Treasurer of State and credited as follows:

A. Ten dollars to the Maine Lighthouse Trust to support lighthouse restoration and preservation efforts; [PL 2021, c. 56, §1 (NEW).]

B. Four dollars to the Highway Fund for administrative and production costs; and [PL 2021, c. 56, §1 (NEW).]

C. One dollar to the Specialty License Plate Fund established under section 469. [PL 2021, c. 56, §1 (NEW).]
[PL 2021, c. 56, §1 (NEW).]

5. Payment for costs associated with the production and issuance of the first 2,000 plates. The sponsor of the Maine Lighthouse Trust special registration plates shall provide $50,000 to the Secretary of State for costs associated with the production and issuance of Maine Lighthouse Trust special registration plates. The Secretary of State shall deposit these funds in the Specialty License Plate Fund established under section 469. In accordance with section 468, subsection 3-A, the Secretary of State shall provide 2,000 credit receipts to the sponsor.
[PL 2021, c. 56, §1 (NEW).]

6. Transfer of fees. On a quarterly basis, the Secretary of State shall transfer the revenue from the issuance and renewal of Maine Lighthouse Trust special registration plates to the Treasurer of State for deposit and crediting pursuant to subsections 3 and 4.
[PL 2021, c. 56, §1 (NEW).]

7. Duplicate plates prohibited. The Secretary of State shall issue a Maine Lighthouse Trust special registration plate in a unique 3-number and 3-letter combination sequence. Vanity plates may not duplicate vanity plates issued in another class of plate.
[PL 2021, c. 56, §1 (NEW).]

8. Date of first issue. The Secretary of State shall issue the first Maine Lighthouse Trust special registration plate by October 1, 2022.
[PL 2021, c. 56, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2021, c. 56, §1 (NEW).

§457. Hobbyist registration plates

1. Hobbyist registration plates authorized. The Secretary of State may issue hobbyist registration plates for antique autos, custom vehicles, horseless carriages, street rods or antique motorcycles. These plates must bear the inscription "Maine" and the inscription "Antique Auto," "Custom Vehicle," "Horseless Carriage" or "Street Rod" or, for antique motorcycles, the inscription "Antique."
[PL 2013, c. 381, Pt. A, §2 (AMD).]

2. Existing number plates.
[PL 1995, c. 645, Pt. A, §3 (RP).]

3. Contemporary plates. An owner of an antique auto, horseless carriage, street rod or antique motorcycle may use registration plates that were issued in the same year the antique vehicle was manufactured, as long as the motor vehicle:

A. Is over 25 years old or in the case of an antique auto or antique motorcycle, is more than 35 years old or is more than 25 years old and was registered in the State as an antique auto or antique motorcycle prior to January 2025; [PL 2023, c. 634, §3 (AMD).]

B. Is registered as an antique vehicle; and [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

C. Carries a valid antique motor vehicle registration certificate and plates. [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]
[PL 2023, c. 634, §3 (AMD).]

4. Display of contemporary plates. Contemporary registration plates must have matching plate numbers, be affixed to both the front and rear and conspicuously bear the year of manufacture.
[PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

5. Street rod standards. The Chief of the State Police shall establish standards to qualify vehicles as street rods. These standards include:

A. The age of the vehicle; [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

B. The equipment and its condition; and [PL 2005, c. 34, §1 (AMD).]

C. Permissible modifications. [PL 2005, c. 34, §1 (AMD).]

D. [PL 2005, c. 34, §2 (RP).]
[PL 2005, c. 34, §§1, 2 (AMD).]

6. Application. An application for registration of a vehicle under this section must be accompanied by an affidavit that includes a statement indicating the year and make of the motor vehicle and that the vehicle is garaged or maintained in the State.
[PL 2005, c. 321, §3 (AMD); PL 2005, c. 321, §6 (AFF).]

7. Registration fee. The fee for registration of a horseless carriage or antique motorcycle is $15. The fee for registration of a street rod or antique auto is $30.
[PL 2015, c. 206, §3 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1993, c. 683, §A2 (NEW). PL 1993, c. 683, §B5 (AFF). PL 1995, c. 645, §§A3,C4 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 645, §C16 (AFF). PL 1999, c. 790, §C1 (AMD). PL 1999, c. 790, §C19 (AFF). PL 2005, c. 34, §§1,2 (AMD). PL 2005, c. 321, §§2,3 (AMD). PL 2005, c. 321, §6 (AFF). PL 2013, c. 381, Pt. A, §2 (AMD). PL 2015, c. 206, §3 (AMD). PL 2023, c. 634, §3 (AMD).

§458. Stock race cars

1. Stock race car plates authorized. The Secretary of State may issue a registration plate for stock race cars.
[PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

2. Fee.

[PL 1999, c. 790, Pt. C, §2 (RP); PL 1999, c. 790, Pt. C, §19 (AFF).]

3. Operation restricted. A stock race car may not be operated under its own power on a public way.
[PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1993, c. 683, §A2 (NEW). PL 1993, c. 683, §B5 (AFF). PL 1995, c. 645, §C5 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 645, §C16 (AFF). PL 1999, c. 790, §C2 (AMD). PL 1999, c. 790, §C19 (AFF).

§458-A. Modified show vehicle

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2001, c. 225, §2 (NEW). PL 2005, c. 314, §4 (RP).

§458-B. Custom vehicles

A custom vehicle may be registered in accordance with the provisions of this section. [PL 2005, c. 321, §4 (NEW); PL 2005, c. 321, §6 (AFF).]

1. Registration fee. The fee for the custom vehicle registration plate is the regular motor vehicle registration fee required by section 501 and the excise tax required by Title 36, section 1482.
[PL 2005, c. 321, §4 (NEW); PL 2005, c. 321, §6 (AFF).]

2. Registration plates. The Secretary of State shall issue a registration certificate and a set of custom vehicle registration plates in a 3-number and 3-letter combination sequence to be used in lieu of regular registration plates.
[PL 2005, c. 321, §4 (NEW); PL 2005, c. 321, §6 (AFF).]

3. Application. An application for registration of a vehicle under this section must be accompanied by an affidavit that includes a statement indicating the year and make that the body of the custom vehicle resembles and that the vehicle is garaged or maintained in the State.
[PL 2005, c. 321, §4 (NEW); PL 2005, c. 321, §6 (AFF).]

4. Registration. The registration must indicate the year and make that the body of the custom vehicle resembles and must indicate the vehicle has been modified.
[PL 2005, c. 321, §4 (NEW); PL 2005, c. 321, §6 (AFF).]

5. Vanity plates. The Secretary of State may issue vanity plates in accordance with section 453 and may not duplicate vanity plates issued in another class of plate.
[PL 2005, c. 321, §4 (NEW); PL 2005, c. 321, §6 (AFF).]

6. Weight limit. A custom vehicle registration plate may be issued for a motor vehicle that does not exceed 10,000 pounds.
[PL 2011, c. 139, §2 (AMD).]

7. Inspection. A custom vehicle is subject to the inspection requirements of section 1751, except that the Chief of the State Police may provide certain exemptions for custom vehicles pursuant to section 1769.
[PL 2011, c. 139, §3 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2005, c. 321, §4 (NEW). PL 2005, c. 321, §6 (AFF). PL 2011, c. 139, §§2, 3 (AMD).

§459. Manufacturers, dealers, transporters, body shops, transmission shops and garages; special plates

1. Special plates. The Secretary of State may select and issue special distinguishing letters, marks or designs for number plates issued to manufacturers, dealers, holders of transporter registration certificates and owners of body shops, transmission shops or garages.
[PL 2011, c. 44, §1 (AMD).]

2. Special vanity plates. A car dealer or an owner of a body shop, transmission shop or garage may apply for special vanity registration plates that may bear letters or combinations of letters and numbers that are approved by the Secretary of State or a designee. A plate may not be duplicated by other licensed vehicle dealers, body shops, transmission shops or garages. These special vanity plates may not be used to supplement existing registration numbers assigned.

The Secretary of State shall charge an additional $30 fee per plate issued pursuant to this subsection.
[PL 2011, c. 44, §1 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1993, c. 683, §A2 (NEW). PL 1993, c. 683, §B5 (AFF). PL 2011, c. 44, §1 (AMD).

§460. State officials

1. State official registration plates authorized. The Secretary of State, on payment of taxes required in section 409, fees required in section 501, subsections 1 and 2-A and an additional fee equal to the cost of producing the plates, rounded to the nearest dollar, and upon application, shall issue one pair of specially designed number plates for one designated motor vehicle owned or controlled by each member of the United States Senate or the United States House of Representatives from this State, or members of the Legislature, Representatives of the Indian Tribes at the Legislature, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House of Representatives. The cost of producing the special plates is determined by the bureau. A specially designed plate and its registration certificate may be used in place of the regular plate and registration. The named official may attach to such a motor vehicle one of the valid registration plates issued under section 451 and one of the special registration plates issued under this section.
[PL 2001, c. 471, Pt. A, §29 (AMD).]

2. Additional plates. On request by a United States Senator or by a United States Representative, the Secretary of State, for a fee of $2, shall issue an additional pair of specially designed number plates for a 2nd designated motor vehicle owned or controlled by that member.
[PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

2-A. Motorcycle plates; Legislature. In addition to any plate issued pursuant to subsection 1, the Secretary of State, on payment of taxes required in Title 36 and an additional fee to be established by rule, shall issue a specially designed number plate for one designated motorcycle owned or controlled by each member of the Legislature, each representative of an Indian Tribe at the Legislature, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The bureau shall produce those plates within existing budgeted resources. A specially designed motorcycle plate and its registration certificate may be used in place of the regular plate and registration. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.
[PL 2005, c. 664, Pt. Q, §1 (NEW).]

3. Period of validity. An official plate is valid only while the member actually serves in the office for which the member is elected.
[PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

4. Design. The Secretary of State shall determine the color, shape, size, lettering and numbering of the official registration plates, except the plates issued to a member of the House of Representatives, other than the Speaker of the House of Representatives, must bear the number of that House District, and plates issued to a member of the Senate, other than the President of the Senate, must bear the number of that Senatorial District.
[PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1993, c. 683, §A2 (NEW). PL 1993, c. 683, §B5 (AFF). PL 1995, c. 482, §B4 (AMD). PL 1997, c. 58, §1 (AMD). PL 2001, c. 471, §A29 (AMD). PL 2005, c. 664, §Q1 (AMD).

§460-A. Honorary consul

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2011, c. 356, §4 (NEW). PL 2023, c. 257, §6 (RP).

§461. Reservation of same number

1. Plate issue year. In a year in which new registration plates are issued, the Secretary of State shall reserve for one year the same registration number for the succeeding registration year for a person who notifies in writing the Secretary of State of that person's desire to retain that registration number. The fee for retention of the same registration number is $25.

The Secretary of State may issue a facsimile plate that is valid for a 90-day period during production of a reserved plate. A facsimile plate must be attached to the rear plate bracket.

All numbers other than those reserved may be issued 6 months after the plate issue is complete.
[PL 2023, c. 421, §5 (AMD).]

2. Nonplate issue year. In other than a plate issue year, when a person fails to reregister and the registration remains expired for 6 consecutive months, the reservation of the same number ceases and the number becomes available for reissuance.

[PL 2023, c. 634, §4 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1993, c. 683, §A2 (NEW). PL 1993, c. 683, §B5 (AFF). PL 1995, c. 482, §B5 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 645, §C6 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 645, §C16 (AFF). PL 1997, c. 776, §11 (AMD). PL 1999, c. 470, §4 (AMD). PL 2019, c. 352, §1 (AMD). PL 2023, c. 421, §5 (AMD). PL 2023, c. 634, §4 (AMD).

§462. Temporary registration plates

(REALLOCATED TO TITLE 29-A, SECTION 954-A)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1993, c. 683, §A2 (NEW). PL 1993, c. 683, §B5 (AFF). PL 2001, c. 149, §1 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 132, §1 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 452, §§Q4,5 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 452, §X2 (AFF). PL 2019, c. 397, §§6, 7 (AMD). PL 2021, c. 126, §1 (AMD). PL 2023, c. 257, §7 (RAL).

§462-A. Temporary registration permit; United States Armed Forces deployments; rules

Upon application to the Secretary of State and evidence of insurance as required by section 402, the Secretary of State may issue a temporary registration permit to a member of the United States Armed Forces authorizing that member to operate a motor vehicle or trailer for a period of 30 days if that member has returned to the State from a deployment outside the continental United States, unless the provisions of section 353 apply. The application required by this section may be completed by an

authorized representative of the member of the United States Armed Forces. The Secretary of State may delegate the authority granted under this section and may adopt rules to establish the application criteria. Rules adopted pursuant to this section are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A. [PL 2011, c. 605, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2011, c. 605, §1 (NEW).

§463. Disposition of registration plates

1. Property of State. Registration plates issued by the Secretary of State continue to be the property of the State.
[PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

1-A. Discontinued registration plates. Notwithstanding subsection 1, a general issue registration plate that is of a design no longer issued by the Secretary of State is the property of the person to whom the plate was issued.
[PL 1997, c. 520, §1 (NEW).]

2. Expiration upon transfer or assignment. When the owner of a vehicle transfers or assigns title or interest in a vehicle the registration expires.
[PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

3. Return of registration plate and registration certificate. When a registration certificate is suspended, revoked, canceled or has expired and the owner has no intention to renew or transfer within 6 months, the owner shall remove the registration plates and forward them, along with the registration certificate, to the Secretary of State.
[PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

4. Reassignment of registration number. The registrant may request that plates and the registration number be assigned in the registrant's name to another vehicle.
[PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

5. Unauthorized taking of registration plate. A person commits a Class E crime if that person steals, takes or carries away, without permission or authority, a registration plate from another person entitled to possession of that plate.
[PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1993, c. 683, §A2 (NEW). PL 1993, c. 683, §B5 (AFF). PL 1997, c. 520, §1 (AMD).

§464. Unused registration plates

An owner that returns registration plates with an affidavit stating that those plates have never been used must be refunded the registration fee paid if: [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

1. Time limit. The plates are returned within 120 days of issue; and
[PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

2. Registration plate unused. The Secretary of State is satisfied that the plates have never been used.
[PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1993, c. 683, §A2 (NEW). PL 1993, c. 683, §B5 (AFF).

§465. Loss of registration plates

1. Loss of registration plates. If a registration plate is lost or the number becomes mutilated or illegible, the owner or person in control of the vehicle shall immediately place a temporary substitute number plate bearing the registration number on the vehicle.
[PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

2. Conformity with registration plate required. A temporary plate must conform to the registration plate and be displayed as nearly as possible as a regular registration plate.
[PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

3. Report. Within 24 hours after loss or mutilation of registration plates, a person shall notify the Secretary of State and apply for new registration plates.
[PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

4. Reissue. If satisfied as to the truth of the facts stated in the application, the Secretary of State shall supply new registration plates on payment of a fee of $5 for each plate.
[PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

5. One of a set. Whenever one of a set of registration plates is lost and a new set is issued, the remaining plate must be returned to the Secretary of State.
[PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

6. Registration plate lost in transit. If registration plates are lost in transit and the applicant certifies in an affidavit that the plates have not been received, and that if they are received the applicant will return them, the Secretary of State after investigation may furnish the applicant with a 2nd set of plates without additional charge.
[PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

7. Applicability. This section does not apply to dealers and transporters.
[PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1993, c. 683, §A2 (NEW). PL 1993, c. 683, §B5 (AFF).

§466. Registration Plate Equipment and Production Program

The Registration Plate Equipment and Production Program is established as a program within the Highway Fund. One dollar from each registration fee paid in accordance with section 457, 458, 501, 504, 505, 509, 513, 515 or 520 must be paid into the Highway Fund and allocated to the Registration Plate Equipment and Production Program. The Legislature may authorize allocations from the program exclusively for costs relating to the design, production, storage, handling and issuance of registration plates. These costs may include, but are not limited to, the following: the purchase, installation, repair and rebuilding of equipment used in the production or handling of registration plates; materials used in the production, handling and shipping of registration plates; and buildings or space rented, leased or purchased for the production or storage of registration plates or the storage of materials used in the production of plates. Highway Fund allocations to the Registration Plate Equipment and Production Program may not lapse but must be carried forward to be used for the same purposes. [PL 1995, c. 645, Pt. C, §7 (NEW); PL 1995, c. 645, Pt. C, §16 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1995, c. 645, §C7 (NEW). PL 1995, c. 645, §C16 (AFF).

§467. Moratorium on specialty plates

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1995, c. 645, §C7 (NEW). PL 2019, c. 397, §8 (RP).

§468. Specialty license plate

The Secretary of State may not issue a specialty license plate until the sponsor has met all of the requirements of this section and the proposed specialty license plate legislation as required in subsection 7 is reviewed by the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over transportation matters and approved by the Legislature. For the purposes of this subchapter, "specialty license plate" means a specially designed registration plate that may be used in place of the regular plate and registration for fundraising purposes. The Secretary of State shall administer a specialty license plate in accordance with the following provisions. [PL 2017, c. 327, §13 (AMD).]

1. Sponsor. A person must register with the Secretary of State and receive approval from the Secretary of State as the sponsor of a specialty license plate.
[PL 2023, c. 271, §6 (AMD); PL 2023, c. 271, §8 (AFF).]

1-A. Sponsor affiliation. A sponsor who registers with the Secretary of State after June 30, 2025 must be affiliated with a state department that is responsible for oversight of the collection and distribution of the contributions collected under subsection 2, paragraph B and not returned pursuant to subsection 2, paragraph C, which, except as provided by subsection 2, must be deposited in an other special revenue account to provide essential services to the public. To obtain preliminary approval in subsection 1-B, the sponsor shall provide documentation to the Secretary of State identifying the state department providing oversight and that department shall submit in writing on departmental letterhead to the Secretary of State that it agrees to oversee the collection and distribution of the contributions.
[PL 2023, c. 634, §5 (AMD).]

1-B. Plate design approval. This subsection governs the plate design approval process.

A. A sponsor shall submit the documentation under subsection 1-A to the Secretary of State and obtain from the Secretary of State preliminary approval of the proposed specialty license plate design before proceeding with subsection 2. [PL 2023, c. 271, §6 (NEW); PL 2023, c. 271, §8 (AFF).]

B. Before preliminarily approving the proposed specialty license plate design, the Secretary of State shall obtain the services of a professional designer, paid by the sponsor, to format the plate to meet the Secretary of State's design requirements and standards. The Secretary of State shall consult with the Maine State Police and the Maine Turnpike Authority to evaluate the human and electronic readability of the plate design. [PL 2023, c. 271, §6 (NEW); PL 2023, c. 271, §8 (AFF).]

C. Before manufacturing the specialty license plate, the Secretary of State shall provide the final design for a specialty license plate to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over transportation matters for review. [PL 2023, c. 271, §6 (NEW); PL 2023, c. 271, §8 (AFF).]
[PL 2023, c. 271, §6 (NEW); PL 2023, c. 271, §8 (AFF).]

2. Names, signatures and payment. The Secretary of State may not manufacture an authorized specialty license plate unless the sponsor:

A. Provides to the Secretary of State a list with 4,000 names, dated signatures and current plate numbers of supporters who have physically signed a statement on paper declaring they intend to purchase and display the specialty license plate; [PL 2023, c. 271, §6 (AMD); PL 2023, c. 271, §8 (AFF).]

B. Collects from each supporter who signs the statement an amount of $25 for each set of plates and provides to the Secretary of State the sum of these contributions in the amount of $100,000, which is nonrefundable; and [PL 2023, c. 271, §6 (AMD); PL 2023, c. 271, §8 (AFF).]

C. Informs each supporter that the $25 contribution will be returned to the supporter within 90 days if the requirements in subsection 7 are not met within one year. [PL 2023, c. 271, §6 (NEW); PL 2023, c. 271, §8 (AFF).]

The Secretary of State shall deposit the $100,000 provided under paragraph B in the Specialty License Plate Fund established under section 469.
[PL 2023, c. 271, §6 (AMD); PL 2023, c. 271, §8 (AFF).]

3. Fee.
[PL 2007, c. 383, §5 (RP).]

3-A. Credit voucher. The Secretary of State shall provide a voucher to each of the 4,000 supporters that contributed $25. The credit voucher may be used only to obtain one set of specialty license plates.
[PL 2023, c. 271, §6 (AMD); PL 2023, c. 271, §8 (AFF).]

3-B. Registration fee. The fee for the specialty license plate is in addition to the regular motor vehicle registration fee required by section 501 and the excise tax required by Title 36, section 1482.
[PL 2007, c. 383, §5 (NEW).]

3-C. Fee; credit to funds. This subsection governs the funding distribution for specialty license plates approved for issuance after June 30, 2024. In addition to the regular motor vehicle registration fee prescribed by law for the particular class of vehicle registered, the initial fee for the specialty license plates is $20, which must be deposited with the Treasurer of State and credited as follows:

A. Ten dollars to the other special revenue account under subsection 1-A for purposes specified in the account description; [PL 2023, c. 271, §6 (NEW); PL 2023, c. 271, §8 (AFF).]

B. Nine dollars to the Highway Fund for administrative and production costs; and [PL 2023, c. 271, §6 (NEW); PL 2023, c. 271, §8 (AFF).]

C. One dollar to the Specialty License Plate Fund established under section 469. [PL 2023, c. 271, §6 (NEW); PL 2023, c. 271, §8 (AFF).]
[PL 2023, c. 271, §6 (NEW); PL 2023, c. 271, §8 (AFF).]

3-D. Renewal fee. This subsection governs the funding distribution for renewals of specialty license plates after June 30, 2024. In addition to the regular motor vehicle registration fee prescribed by law for the particular class of vehicle registered, the annual renewal fee for the specialty license plates is $15, which must be deposited with the Treasurer of State and credited as follows:

A. Ten dollars to the other special revenue account under subsection 1-A for purposes specified in the account description; [PL 2023, c. 271, §6 (NEW); PL 2023, c. 271, §8 (AFF).]

B. Four dollars to the Highway Fund for administrative and production costs; and [PL 2023, c. 271, §6 (NEW); PL 2023, c. 271, §8 (AFF).]

C. One dollar to the Specialty License Plate Fund established under section 469. [PL 2023, c. 271, §6 (NEW); PL 2023, c. 271, §8 (AFF).]
[PL 2023, c. 271, §6 (NEW); PL 2023, c. 271, §8 (AFF).]

4. Minimum number manufactured. The Secretary of State shall manufacture a minimum of 4,000 specialty license plates for each specialty license plate authorized under this section.
[PL 2023, c. 271, §6 (AMD); PL 2023, c. 271, §8 (AFF).]

5. Design approval.
[PL 2023, c. 271, §6 (RP); PL 2023, c. 271, §8 (AFF).]

6. Numbering, lettering and duplicate plates. The Secretary of State shall issue a specialty license plate in a 3-number and 3-letter combination sequence. Plate numbers may not duplicate plates issued in another class of plate. Vanity plates may not duplicate vanity plates issued in another class of

plate. This subsection does not apply to a person that holds a specialty license plate with duplicate numbers in another class of plate or a duplicate vanity plate in another class of plate issued in accordance with section 453 prior to July 1, 2023, as long as the person maintains a valid registration with that plate.
[PL 2023, c. 271, §6 (AMD); PL 2023, c. 271, §8 (AFF).]

7. Deadline for Secretary of State approval. The sponsor must submit to the Secretary of State the names, signatures, payment and proposed design for the specialty license plate by September 1st. The signatures must have been collected in-person within one year of submission to the Secretary of State. Electronically collected signatures may not be accepted. If the requirements of subsections 1, 1-A, 1-B and 2 are met, the Secretary of State shall submit proposed legislation seeking authorization of the specialty license plate to the following regular session of the Legislature.
[PL 2023, c. 271, §6 (AMD); PL 2023, c. 271, §8 (AFF).]

8. Weight limit. Except as provided under section 456-F, subsection 7, paragraph B, a specialty license plate under this subchapter may be issued for an automobile or truck that does not exceed 26,000 pounds registered weight. After June 30, 2024, an automobile or truck that is issued a specialty license plate may not exceed 10,000 pounds registered weight.
[PL 2023, c. 271, §6 (AMD); PL 2023, c. 271, §8 (AFF).]

9. Limit on authorization. The Secretary of State shall manage the number of approved specialty license plates in accordance with this subsection.

A. [PL 2017, c. 327, §15 (RP).]

B. [PL 2017, c. 327, §15 (RP).]

C. When a specialty license plate falls to 4,500 registrations, the Secretary of State shall notify the sponsor and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over transportation matters of the Secretary of State's intent to retire and cease to issue the specialty license plate if the number of registrations falls below 4,000 for one year. The Secretary of State shall provide the sponsor with monthly updates. [PL 2023, c. 271, §6 (NEW); PL 2023, c. 271, §8 (AFF).]

D. The Secretary of State shall retire, cease to issue and replace upon renewal a specialty license plate if the number of registrations falls below 4,000 for more than one year. [PL 2023, c. 271, §6 (NEW); PL 2023, c. 271, §8 (AFF).]

E. The Secretary of State shall retire, cease to issue and replace upon renewal a specialty license plate if the entity receiving a distribution of the contributions ceases to operate or does not comply with this section. [PL 2023, c. 271, §6 (NEW); PL 2023, c. 271, §8 (AFF).]

F. When the total number of approved specialty license plates reaches 15, the Secretary of State may not approve a specialty license plate sponsor under subsection 1. The sponsor's name and affiliated state department identified pursuant to subsection 1-A must be added to a waiting list in the order of the received requests. [PL 2023, c. 271, §6 (NEW); PL 2023, c. 271, §8 (AFF).]
[PL 2023, c. 271, §6 (AMD); PL 2023, c. 271, §8 (AFF).]

10. Additional versions or classes of the specialty license plate. The Secretary of State may not issue a specialty license plate in a class other than passenger plates.

A. [PL 2023, c. 271, §6 (RP); PL 2023, c. 271, §8 (AFF).]

B. [PL 2023, c. 271, §6 (RP); PL 2023, c. 271, §8 (AFF).]

C. [PL 2023, c. 271, §6 (RP); PL 2023, c. 271, §8 (AFF).]

Commercial plates issued prior to July 1, 2023 under sections 455 and 456-F are exempt from this subsection.
[PL 2023, c. 271, §6 (AMD); PL 2023, c. 271, §8 (AFF).]

11. Affiliated state department. A sponsor shall provide to the affiliated state department identified pursuant to subsection 1-A an annual independent audit of the other special revenue account. The affiliated state department shall provide to the Secretary of State an annual audit report and an accounting of the contributions received and distributed during that reporting period. The Secretary of State shall provide the report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over transportation matters.
[PL 2023, c. 271, §6 (NEW); PL 2023, c. 271, §8 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1997, c. 776, §12 (NEW). PL 2001, c. 623, §5 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 652, §B1 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 652, §B8 (AFF). PL 2007, c. 240, Pt. LLLL, §3 (AMD). PL 2007, c. 383, §5 (AMD). PL 2007, c. 695, Pt. A, §33 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 356, §5 (AMD). PL 2013, c. 66, §1 (AMD). PL 2017, c. 327, §§13-15 (AMD). PL 2021, c. 216, §12 (AMD). PL 2023, c. 271, §6 (AMD). PL 2023, c. 271, §8 (AFF). PL 2023, c. 634, §5 (AMD).

§468-A. Recognition license plates

The Secretary of State may not issue a recognition license plate until the sponsor has met all of the requirements of this section and the proposed recognition license plate legislation as required by subsection 8 is reviewed by the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over transportation matters and approved by the Legislature. The Secretary of State shall administer a recognition license plate in accordance with this section. [PL 2007, c. 383, §6 (AMD).]

1. Definition. "Recognition license plate" means a specially designed registration plate that may be used in place of the regular plate and registration for recognition purposes only and is not used for fundraising purposes.
[PL 2003, c. 652, Pt. B, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 652, Pt. B, §8 (AFF).]

2. Sponsor. A person shall register with the Secretary of State as the sponsor of a recognition license plate.
[PL 2003, c. 652, Pt. B, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 652, Pt. B, §8 (AFF).]

3. Names, signatures and payment. The Secretary of State may not manufacture an authorized recognition license plate unless a sponsor:

A. Provides to the Secretary of State a list with 2,000 names, dated signatures and current plate numbers of supporters who have signed a statement declaring they intend to purchase and display the recognition license plate; and [PL 2007, c. 383, §6 (NEW).]

B. Collects from each supporter who signs the statement an amount of $25 for each set of plates and provides the Secretary of State the sum of these contributions in the amount of $50,000, which is nonrefundable. [PL 2007, c. 383, §6 (NEW).]

The Secretary of State shall deposit the $50,000 provided under paragraph B into the Specialty License Plate Fund established under section 469.
[PL 2007, c. 383, §6 (AMD).]

3-A. Credit receipts. The Secretary of State shall provide 2,000 credit receipts to the sponsor to provide to each supporter that contributed $25. The credit receipt may be used only to obtain one set of specialty plates.
[PL 2007, c. 383, §6 (NEW).]

4. Registration fee. The fee for the recognition license plate is in addition to the regular motor vehicle registration fee required by section 501 and the excise tax required by Title 36, section 1482.
[PL 2007, c. 383, §6 (AMD).]

5. Minimum number manufactured. The Secretary of State shall manufacture a minimum of 2,000 recognition license plates for each recognition license plate authorized under this section.

[PL 2003, c. 652, Pt. B, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 652, Pt. B, §8 (AFF).]

6. Design approval. A sponsor must submit a proposed design for a recognition license plate for approval or modification by the Secretary of State. The joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over transportation matters shall review the final design for a recognition license plate prior to the manufacture of the plate.
[PL 2003, c. 652, Pt. B, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 652, Pt. B, §8 (AFF).]

7. Duplicate plates. The Secretary of State shall issue a recognition license plate in a 3-number and 3-letter combination sequence. Vanity plates may not duplicate vanity plates issued in another class of plate.
[PL 2003, c. 652, Pt. B, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 652, Pt. B, §8 (AFF).]

8. Deadline for Secretary of State approval. The sponsor shall submit to the Secretary of State the names, signatures, payment and proposed design for the recognition license plate by September 1st. The signatures must have been collected within 2 years of submission to the Secretary of State. If the design is approved pursuant to subsection 6, the Secretary of State shall submit proposed legislation seeking authorization of the recognition license plate to the following regular session of the Legislature.
[PL 2007, c. 383, §6 (AMD).]

9. Weight limit. A recognition license plate may not be issued for an automobile or pickup truck that weighs more than 10,000 pounds.
[PL 2007, c. 383, §6 (AMD).]

10. Limit on authorization. The Secretary of State shall retire and cease to issue any plate authorized after January 1, 2007:

A. When the number of sets of the plate issued falls below 4,000 for more than one year. [PL 2019, c. 397, §9 (AMD).]

B. [PL 2019, c. 397, §9 (RP).]
[PL 2019, c. 397, §9 (AMD).]

11. Additional versions or classes of the recognition plate. All requirements set forth in this section must be followed for each additional class or version of a recognition plate.
[PL 2007, c. 383, §6 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 652, §B2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 652, §B8 (AFF). PL 2007, c. 383, §6 (AMD). PL 2019, c. 397, §9 (AMD). PL 2023, c. 271, §8 (AFF).

§469. Specialty License Plate Fund

1. Fund created. The Specialty License Plate Fund is established as a dedicated nonlapsing fund. The fund is administered by the Secretary of State.
[PL 1997, c. 776, §12 (NEW).]

2. Purpose. Except as specified under section 468-A, subsection 3, all money credited to the Specialty License Plate Fund must be used to cover the cost of manufacturing and producing a specialty or recognition license plate authorized pursuant to sections 468 and 468-A.
[PL 2003, c. 652, Pt. B, §3 (AMD); PL 2003, c. 652, Pt. B, §8 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1997, c. 776, §12 (NEW). PL 2001, c. 623, §6 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 652, §B3 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 652, §B8 (AFF).

§470. Experimental motor vehicle plates and registration

1. Definition. "Experimental motor vehicle" means any motor vehicle in the developmental stage that has not yet reached production.
[PL 2003, c. 125, §1 (NEW).]

2. Inspection and equipment. An experimental motor vehicle is exempt from inspection requirements under section 1751 but must comply with the equipment standards of chapter 17 to include at a minimum: body components, an exhaust system, reflectors, running gear, tires, a horn, lights, directional signals, brakes, a steering mechanism, windshield wipers, safety seat belts and rearview mirrors.
[PL 2003, c. 125, §1 (NEW).]

3. Experimental motor vehicle inventor registration. A person in the business of developing experimental motor vehicles shall register with the Secretary of State as an experimental motor vehicle inventor. The Secretary of State shall develop and implement an application process, including but not limited to name, address and description and photographs of the experimental motor vehicle in development.
[PL 2003, c. 125, §1 (NEW).]

4. Experimental motor vehicle plate. The Secretary of State shall issue a registration plate for an experimental motor vehicle to a registered experimental motor vehicle inventor. This plate may be used for one or more experimental motor vehicles during the term of the registration provided that those vehicles are owned by the person issued the registration plate. The Secretary of State may issue no more than 2 plates per registered experimental motor vehicle inventor. The registration for an experimental motor vehicle must be renewed annually.
[PL 2003, c. 125, §1 (NEW).]

5. Fee. The Secretary of State shall charge an annual fee of $20 for each plate issued under this section.
[PL 2003, c. 125, §1 (NEW).]

6. Insurance. The Secretary of State may not issue an experimental motor vehicle registration plate until the applicant has procured and filed with the Secretary of State a certificate showing that the applicant is covered by an automobile bodily injury and property damage liability insurance policy providing coverage against any legal liability when injury, death or damage results from or has been caused by the operation of any vehicle bearing an experimental motor vehicle registration plate.
[PL 2003, c. 125, §1 (NEW).]

7. Limitations on use. A person may not operate an experimental motor vehicle on a public way with a posted speed limit that exceeds the capability of that vehicle to achieve and safely maintain that speed. Experimental motor vehicles are prohibited from operation on the interstate highway system and Maine Turnpike at all times. A person may operate an experimental motor vehicle only in daylight hours.
[PL 2003, c. 125, §1 (NEW).]

8. Rulemaking. The Secretary of State shall adopt rules to establish the application criteria and process by which a person may qualify to receive an experimental motor vehicle registration plate. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.
[PL 2003, c. 125, §1 (NEW).]

9. Violations. The operation of any motor vehicle registered under this section that is not in compliance with this section is a traffic infraction.
[PL 2003, c. 125, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 125, §1 (NEW).

ARTICLE 4

REGISTRATION PROVISIONS

§501. Fees for registration; motor vehicles

The annual fees for the registration of motor vehicles must accompany the application for registration and are as follows. [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

1. Automobiles; pickup trucks. The fee for an automobile, a pickup truck registered for 6,000 pounds or less or a sport utility vehicle used for the conveyance of passengers or interchangeably for passengers or property is $35. The fee for a pickup truck registered for more than 6,000 pounds but no more than 10,000 pounds is $37.

An automobile or sport utility vehicle used for the conveyance of passengers or property is a "combination" vehicle and may be issued a special plate with the word "combination" instead of "Vacationland." A passenger vehicle used under contract with the State, a municipality or a school district to transport students must be designated as "combination." A vehicle owned or operated by parents or legal guardians is exempt from this subsection.

Commercial plates may not be issued for or displayed on an automobile.

A sport utility vehicle may be registered either as an automobile or a truck. A sport utility vehicle with a gross vehicle weight or combined gross vehicle weight in excess of 10,000 pounds and used in the furtherance of a commercial enterprise must be registered as a truck according to its actual gross weight as provided in section 504.

The gross weight of a pickup truck registered as provided by this subsection may not exceed 10,000 pounds. An owner of a pickup truck who operates the pickup truck with a gross weight in excess of 10,000 pounds or the pickup truck drawing a semitrailer with a combined gross weight in excess of 10,000 pounds must register the truck as provided in section 504.

A combination of vehicles consisting of a motor vehicle and a camp trailer is not required to be registered for the gross weight of the combination.

Beginning July 1, 2009 and ending June 30, 2025, $10 of the fee must be transferred on a quarterly basis by the Treasurer of State to the TransCap Trust Fund established by Title 30-A, section 6006-G. [PL 2025, c. 9, Pt. F, §2 (AMD).]

2. Island vehicles.
[PL 1999, c. 660, §2 (RP).]

2-A. Island vehicles, golf carts and low-speed vehicles. The following provisions apply to vehicles operating on islands that have no public ways maintained or supported by the State.

A. Notwithstanding subsection 1, an automobile may be registered for an annual fee of $4. A low-speed vehicle or golf cart may be registered for an annual fee of $4. The registrant must show evidence of payment of the excise tax required by Title 36, section 1482. The municipality may collect an additional $4 fee annually to defray the cost of removing abandoned vehicles or golf carts. [PL 2001, c. 197, §4 (AMD).]

B. A low-speed vehicle or golf cart may be operated on an island if the governing body of the municipality allows. A low-speed vehicle or golf cart may be operated only on a road or street where the posted speed limit is 35 miles per hour or less. A low-speed vehicle or golf cart may cross, at an intersection, a road or street with a posted speed limit of more than 35 miles per hour. [PL 2001, c. 197, §4 (AMD).]

C. Any person operating a low-speed vehicle or a golf cart on an island must possess a valid driving license in any class. [PL 2001, c. 197, §4 (AMD).]

[PL 2001, c. 197, §4 (AMD).]

3. Passenger vehicles for hire. The fee for a passenger vehicle used for hire is double the fee provided in subsection 1, except that for a passenger vehicle used for hire that is equipped with adaptive equipment to make that vehicle accessible by a person with a disability the fee is the same fee provided in subsection 1. The Secretary of State may issue a 2nd registration for the same vehicle at no additional fee.

[PL 2015, c. 267, Pt. BBBB, §1 (AMD).]

4. Funeral coaches. The fee for a private automobile, funeral coach or funeral hearse, used by a licensed practitioner of funeral services under Title 32, chapter 21, is the fee provided in subsection 1. The fee for a funeral coach or funeral hearse used for hire for any other purpose is the same as the fee provided in subsection 3.

[PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

5. School vehicles. The fee for a motor vehicle used only to transport school children to and from school is the same as the fee in subsection 1.

[PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

6. Buses.

[PL 2011, c. 356, §7 (RP).]

7. Temporary registration permit. The Secretary of State may issue a temporary registration permit for the purpose of moving certain vehicles otherwise required to be registered or for a tiny home as follows.

A. A temporary registration permit is limited in use for transportation of a vehicle after sale, transportation necessary for service or repairs of a vehicle, occasional seasonal relocation of a vehicle or occasional transportation necessary for the relocation of a tiny home:

(1) Between the points of origin and destination and intermediate points, as set forth in the permit; or

(2) From the point of origin to the destination and back to the point of origin, including any intermediate points, as set forth in the permit. [PL 2023, c. 257, §8 (AMD).]

B. A temporary registration permit is for the transit of the vehicle only. The vehicle may not be used for the transportation of passengers or property, for compensation or otherwise, unless specifically authorized on the temporary registration permit. If the vehicle is a chartered bus that is not covered by a reciprocity agreement with the state or country of registration, the Secretary of State may authorize transportation of passengers. [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

C. The Secretary of State may not issue a temporary registration permit that is valid for longer than 10 days from the effective date of the registration. [PL 2007, c. 177, §2 (AMD).]

D. The fee for a temporary registration permit issued under paragraph A, subparagraph (1) is $12. The fee for a temporary registration permit issued under paragraph A, subparagraph (2) is $25. [PL 2007, c. 177, §3 (AMD).]

E. The temporary registration permit must be carried in the vehicle at all times. [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

F. A person who operates or moves a vehicle outside the routes specified in the temporary registration permit commits a traffic infraction and may not be fined less than $25 nor more than $200. [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

G. [PL 2023, c. 634, §6 (RP).]

H. A temporary registration plate may not be used on a house trailer or mobile home unless the operator of the vehicle possesses the written certificate from the tax collector required by section 1002, subsection 9. [PL 2021, c. 216, §13 (NEW).]

[PL 2023, c. 634, §6 (AMD).]

8. Special permit. The Secretary of State may issue, on application and the payment of a fee of $4, a special registration permit authorizing the limited operation on the highway of self-propelled golf carts, lawn mowers, ATV's and other similar vehicles with restrictions and limitations of use that minimize the danger to the operator. The following provisions apply to special registration permits.

A. A special registration permit is valid until March 1st of the next calendar year. [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

B. A driver's license is not required for operation under this subsection. [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

C. Vehicles registered under this subsection are exempt from the laws regulating the inspection of motor vehicles. [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

D. A person under the age of 15 years may not operate a vehicle under this subsection on a public way. [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

E. Operation of an ATV is limited to agricultural purposes in connection with a farm and to operation from or to the premises where kept, from or to a farm lot or between farm lots used for farm purposes by the ATV owner. [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

[PL 1999, c. 790, Pt. C, §6 (AMD); PL 1999, c. 790, Pt. C, §19 (AFF).]

9. Attached vehicles. A deputy sheriff with a writ of attachment may move the attached motor vehicle to a place of storage without registration or registration permit as long as the county has insurance as required by chapter 13.

[PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

10. Off-highway vehicles. The Secretary of State may issue, on application and the payment of a fee of $27, a special registration permit authorizing the limited operation on a way of trucks, truck tractors, Class B special mobile equipment, trailers and semitrailers that are otherwise used exclusively for off-highway purposes. The following provisions apply to registration permits issued pursuant to this subsection.

A. A registration permit may not be granted unless the applicant presents a written certificate from the tax collector of the municipality from which the vehicle is being moved identifying the vehicle and stating that all personal property taxes applicable to the vehicle, including those for the current year, have been paid or that the vehicle is exempt from those taxes. [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

B. Highway use is limited to travel to and from garages for the purpose of obtaining repairs or maintenance or travel from one job site to another job site. [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

C. The registration permit may not authorize transporting property or passengers, except that a truck or truck tractor may draw an empty trailer or semitrailer. [PL 2007, c. 38, §1 (AMD).]

D. A registration permit is valid until March 1st of the next calendar year. [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

E. A vehicle issued a registration permit pursuant to this subsection is exempt from inspection requirements. [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

F. The registration permit must be in the vehicle when the vehicle is operated on the highway. [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

G. Trailers and semitrailers must be moved during daytime hours. [PL 2007, c. 38, §1 (NEW).] [PL 2007, c. 38, §1 (AMD).]

11. Low-speed vehicles. The Secretary of State may issue a registration for a low-speed vehicle upon application and payment of an annual fee of $25. The registrant must provide a certificate of title required by section 651, proof of financial responsibility required by section 1601 and evidence of payment of the excise tax required by Title 36, section 1482. A low-speed vehicle registered under this section is issued a registration plate with the word "low-speed" instead of "Vacationland." The Secretary of State may issue a facsimile plate for a 60-day period.
[PL 2003, c. 397, §3 (NEW).]

12. Autocycles.
[PL 2009, c. 55, §2 (NEW); MRSA T. 29-A §501, sub-§12 (RP).]

12-A. Autocycles.
[PL 2011, c. 556, §5 (NEW); MRSA T. 29-A §501, sub-§12-A (RP).]

13. Autocycles. The Secretary of State may issue a registration for an autocycle upon application and payment of an annual fee of $21. The registrant must provide a certificate of title required by section 651, proof of financial responsibility required by section 1601 and evidence of payment of the excise tax as required by Title 36, section 1482, subsection 1, paragraph C. An autocycle registered under this section is issued a registration plate with the word "autocycle" instead of "Vacationland." The Secretary of State may issue a facsimile plate for a 60-day period.
[PL 2019, c. 345, §3 (NEW).]

A person possessing or applying for a registration certificate and a set of gold star family registration plates pursuant to section 524-B is exempt from registration fees under this section for the motor vehicle registered or to be registered. [PL 2019, c. 390, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1993, c. 683, §A2 (NEW). PL 1993, c. 683, §B5 (AFF). PL 1995, c. 65, §§A89,C3 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 65, §§A153,C15 (AFF). PL 1995, c. 645, §C8 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 645, §C16 (AFF). PL 1997, c. 437, §8 (AMD). PL 1999, c. 660, §§2,3 (AMD). PL 1999, c. 790, §§C3-7 (AMD). PL 1999, c. 790, §C19 (AFF). PL 2001, c. 197, §4 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 397, §3 (AMD). PL 2007, c. 38, §1 (AMD). PL 2007, c. 177, §§1-3 (AMD). PL 2007, c. 383, §7 (AMD). PL 2007, c. 647, §2 (AMD). PL 2007, c. 647, §8 (AFF). PL 2009, c. 55, §2 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 356, §§6, 7 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 556, §§4, 5 (AMD). PL 2015, c. 206, §4 (AMD). PL 2015, c. 267, Pt. BBBB, §1 (AMD). PL 2019, c. 345, §3 (AMD). PL 2019, c. 390, §1 (AMD). PL 2019, c. 650, §2 (AMD). PL 2021, c. 216, §13 (AMD). PL 2023, c. 257, §8 (AMD). PL 2023, c. 634, §6 (AMD). PL 2025, c. 9, Pt. F, §2 (AMD).

§502. Transfer and return of registration; prorated registration fees

1. Transferring registration. A person who transfers the ownership or discontinues the use of a registered motor vehicle, trailer or semitrailer and applies for registration of another motor vehicle, trailer or semitrailer in the same registration year may use the same number plates on payment of a transfer fee of $8, as long as the registration fee is the same as that of the former vehicle. If the fee for the vehicle to be registered is greater than the fee for the vehicle first registered, that person must also pay the difference.
[PL 2019, c. 352, §2 (AMD).]

2. Return of registration.
[PL 2009, c. 598, §2 (RP).]

3. Refunds; credits. No portion of a fee is refundable, but credits toward the registration of another vehicle may be given. On registration by an owner or owner's surviving spouse, a credit is allowed as follows.

A. For the first 8 months of a registration year, the full fee may be credited toward the registration of another vehicle. [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

B. For the last 4 months of a registration year, an amount not to exceed 1/2 of the original fee may be credited toward the registration of another vehicle. [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

[PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

4. Prorated fee. On any application for registration made during the last 4 months of a registration year, the registration fee is 1/2 the annual registration fee.

[PL 1995, c. 482, Pt. B, §7 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1993, c. 683, §A2 (NEW). PL 1993, c. 683, §B5 (AFF). PL 1995, c. 482, §§B6,7 (AMD). PL 2009, c. 598, §2 (AMD). PL 2017, c. 67, §3 (AMD). PL 2019, c. 352, §2 (AMD).

§503. Miscellaneous registration fees

Fees for certain replacement plates, registration validation devices and new registration plates are as follows. [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

1. Replacements. Replacement registration plates are furnished to replace lost or mutilated plates or plates assigned to the registrant that have not been expired for more than 8 months. The fee for each plate is $5.

Replacement registration validation devices for number plates are furnished for 50¢ each.

[PL 2017, c. 67, §4 (AMD).]

2. New issues. For each new registration plate issued pursuant to section 451, the Secretary of State shall collect a fee of $1 and the municipal agent shall collect another $1 fee in addition to any other registration fees.

[PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1993, c. 683, §A2 (NEW). PL 1993, c. 683, §B5 (AFF). PL 2017, c. 67, §4 (AMD).

§504. Registration of trucks and truck tractors

1. Truck or truck tractor. For a truck or truck tractor equipped with pneumatic tires, the following annual registration fee schedule applies.

A. For gross weight from 0 to 6,000 pounds, the fee is $35.

Beginning July 1, 2009 and ending June 30, 2025, $10 of the fee must be transferred on a quarterly basis by the Treasurer of State to the TransCap Trust Fund established by Title 30-A, section 6006-G. [PL 2025, c. 9, Pt. F, §3 (AMD).]

B. For gross weight from 6,001 to 10,000 pounds, the fee is $37. [PL 2007, c. 383, §8 (AMD).]

C. For gross weight from 10,001 to 12,000 pounds, the fee is $48. [PL 2007, c. 383, §9 (AMD).]

D. For gross weight from 12,001 to 14,000 pounds, the fee is $81. [PL 1999, c. 790, Pt. C, §8 (AMD); PL 1999, c. 790, Pt. C, §19 (AFF).]

E. For gross weight from 14,001 to 16,000 pounds, the fee is $105. [PL 1999, c. 790, Pt. C, §8 (AMD); PL 1999, c. 790, Pt. C, §19 (AFF).]

F. For gross weight from 16,001 to 18,000 pounds, the fee is $130. [PL 1999, c. 790, Pt. C, §8 (AMD); PL 1999, c. 790, Pt. C, §19 (AFF).]

G. For gross weight from 18,001 to 20,000 pounds, the fee is $161. [PL 1999, c. 790, Pt. C, §8 (AMD); PL 1999, c. 790, Pt. C, §19 (AFF).]

H. For gross weight from 20,001 to 23,000 pounds, the fee is $188. [PL 1999, c. 790, Pt. C, §8 (AMD); PL 1999, c. 790, Pt. C, §19 (AFF).]

I. For gross weight from 23,001 to 26,000 pounds, the fee is $220. [PL 1999, c. 790, Pt. C, §8 (AMD); PL 1999, c. 790, Pt. C, §19 (AFF).]

J. For gross weight from 26,001 to 28,000 pounds, the fee is $267. [PL 1999, c. 790, Pt. C, §8 (AMD); PL 1999, c. 790, Pt. C, §19 (AFF).]

K. For gross weight from 28,001 to 32,000 pounds, the fee is $308. [PL 1999, c. 790, Pt. C, §8 (AMD); PL 1999, c. 790, Pt. C, §19 (AFF).]

L. For gross weight from 32,001 to 34,000 pounds, the fee is $342. [PL 1999, c. 790, Pt. C, §8 (AMD); PL 1999, c. 790, Pt. C, §19 (AFF).]

M. For gross weight from 34,001 to 38,000 pounds, the fee is $379. [PL 1999, c. 790, Pt. C, §8 (AMD); PL 1999, c. 790, Pt. C, §19 (AFF).]

N. For gross weight from 38,001 to 40,000 pounds, the fee is $403. [PL 1999, c. 790, Pt. C, §8 (AMD); PL 1999, c. 790, Pt. C, §19 (AFF).]

O. For gross weight from 40,001 to 42,000 pounds, the fee is $426. [PL 1999, c. 790, Pt. C, §8 (AMD); PL 1999, c. 790, Pt. C, §19 (AFF).]

P. For gross weight from 42,001 to 45,000 pounds, the fee is $450. [PL 1999, c. 790, Pt. C, §8 (AMD); PL 1999, c. 790, Pt. C, §19 (AFF).]

Q. For gross weight from 45,001 to 48,000 pounds, the fee is $497. [PL 1999, c. 790, Pt. C, §8 (AMD); PL 1999, c. 790, Pt. C, §19 (AFF).]

R. For gross weight from 48,001 to 51,000 pounds, the fee is $533. [PL 1999, c. 790, Pt. C, §8 (AMD); PL 1999, c. 790, Pt. C, §19 (AFF).]

S. For gross weight from 51,001 to 54,000 pounds, the fee is $568. [PL 1999, c. 790, Pt. C, §8 (AMD); PL 1999, c. 790, Pt. C, §19 (AFF).]

T. For gross weight from 54,001 to 55,000 pounds, the fee is $580. [PL 1999, c. 790, Pt. C, §8 (AMD); PL 1999, c. 790, Pt. C, §19 (AFF).]

U. For gross weight from 55,001 to 60,000 pounds, the fee is $640. [PL 1999, c. 790, Pt. C, §8 (AMD); PL 1999, c. 790, Pt. C, §19 (AFF).]

V. For gross weight from 60,001 to 65,000 pounds, the fee is $699. [PL 1999, c. 790, Pt. C, §8 (AMD); PL 1999, c. 790, Pt. C, §19 (AFF).]

W. For gross weight from 65,001 to 69,000 pounds, the fee is $762. [PL 1999, c. 790, Pt. C, §8 (AMD); PL 1999, c. 790, Pt. C, §19 (AFF).]

X. For gross weight from 69,001 to 72,000 pounds, the fee is $797. [PL 1999, c. 790, Pt. C, §8 (AMD); PL 1999, c. 790, Pt. C, §19 (AFF).]

Y. For gross weight from 72,001 to 75,000 pounds, the fee is $821. [PL 1999, c. 790, Pt. C, §8 (AMD); PL 1999, c. 790, Pt. C, §19 (AFF).]

Z. For gross weight from 75,001 to 78,000 pounds, the fee is $857. [PL 1999, c. 790, Pt. C, §8 (AMD); PL 1999, c. 790, Pt. C, §19 (AFF).]

AA. For gross weight from 78,001 to 80,000 pounds, the fee is $877. [PL 1999, c. 790, Pt. C, §8 (AMD); PL 1999, c. 790, Pt. C, §19 (AFF).]

BB. For gross weight from 80,001 to 90,000 pounds, the fee is $982. [PL 1999, c. 790, Pt. C, §8 (AMD); PL 1999, c. 790, Pt. C, §19 (AFF).]

CC. For gross weight from 90,001 to 94,000 pounds, the fee is $1,026. [PL 1999, c. 580, §2 (NEW); PL 1999, c. 580, §14 (AFF).]

DD. For gross weight from 94,001 to 100,000 pounds, the fee is $1,234. [PL 1999, c. 580, §2 (NEW); PL 1999, c. 580, §14 (AFF).]

[PL 2025, c. 9, Pt. F, §3 (AMD).]

2. Credit for certain motor vehicles. If a motor vehicle registered for a gross weight of 23,001 pounds or more is operated only in the truck tractor-semitrailer configuration, a credit of $40 is allowed for the original annual registration fee. The owner of the vehicle must be issued a truck tractor registration plate, which must be displayed on its front.

[PL 2015, c. 473, §8 (AMD).]

3. On ways adjoining premises. A registration or license is not required for the use of a truck, trailer or tractor on that part of a way adjoining the premises of the vehicle's owner.

[PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

4. Federal heavy vehicle use tax; proof of payment required. Except as provided by 26 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 41.6001-2(b)(3), a registration certificate may not be issued for a motor vehicle subject to the use tax imposed by the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, 26 United States Code, Section 4481, until the applicant has presented proof of payment as prescribed by the Secretary of the United States Treasury.

The Secretary of State shall keep records and may issue evidence to comply with 26 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 41, revised as of May 23, 1985, and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, 26 United States Code, Sections 4481, 4482 and 4483.

Pursuant to rule, the Secretary of State may certify that a vehicle qualifies for exemptions under 26 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 41.4483-3(g) or Section 41.4483-6(b), revised as of May 23, 1985.

[PL 1995, c. 65, Pt. A, §90 (AMD); PL 1995, c. 65, Pt. A, §153 (AFF); PL 1995, c. 65, Pt. C, §15 (AFF).]

5. Truck or truck tractor and semitrailer. In computing fees for a combination of truck or truck tractor and semitrailer, the vehicle to be registered for gross weight is the truck or truck tractor and the rate is the same as for a truck of similar gross vehicle weight. The gross weight used to determine the registration fee under subsection 1 is the combined gross weight of the truck or truck tractor and semitrailer.

[PL 1995, c. 584, Pt. A, §1 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1993, c. 683, §A2 (NEW). PL 1993, c. 683, §B5 (AFF). PL 1995, c. 65, §A90 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 65, §§A153,C15 (AFF). PL 1995, c. 584, §A1 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 645, §C9 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 645, §C16 (AFF). PL 1999, c. 580, §2 (AMD). PL 1999, c. 580, §14 (AFF). PL 1999, c. 790, §C8 (AMD). PL 1999, c. 790, §C19 (AFF). PL 2007, c. 383, §§8, 9 (AMD). PL 2007, c. 647, §3 (AMD). PL 2007, c. 647, §8 (AFF). PL 2015, c. 473, §8 (AMD). PL 2025, c. 9, Pt. F, §3 (AMD).

§505. Farm trucks

1. Definition. For purposes of this section, "farm truck" means a truck equipped with axles other than dolly axles under section 1902, subsection 4, or a farm truck towing a trailer or semitrailer when

that truck is used primarily for transportation of agricultural commodities, supplies or equipment for a farm owned, operated or occupied by the registrant. "Farm truck" does not include a truck used for the retail delivery of milk or used on a substantially daily delivery schedule on established routes.
[PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

2. Annual registration fee.
[PL 2001, c. 671, §7 (RP).]

2-A. Annual registration fee. For a farm truck, the following annual registration fee schedule applies.

A. For gross weight from 0 to 6,000 pounds, the fee is $21. [PL 2001, c. 671, §8 (NEW).]

B. For gross weight from 6,001 to 10,000 pounds, the fee is $27. [PL 2007, c. 383, §10 (AMD).]

C. For gross weight from 10,001 to 12,000 pounds, the fee is $32. [PL 2007, c. 383, §11 (AMD).]

D. For gross weight from 12,001 to 14,000 pounds, the fee is $39. [PL 2001, c. 671, §8 (NEW).]

E. For gross weight from 14,001 to 16,000 pounds, the fee is $50. [PL 2001, c. 671, §8 (NEW).]

F. For gross weight from 16,001 to 18,000 pounds, the fee is $72. [PL 2001, c. 671, §8 (NEW).]

G. For gross weight from 18,001 to 20,000 pounds, the fee is $84. [PL 2001, c. 671, §8 (NEW).]

H. For gross weight from 20,001 to 23,000 pounds, the fee is $101. [PL 2001, c. 671, §8 (NEW).]

I. For gross weight from 23,001 to 26,000 pounds, the fee is $119. [PL 2001, c. 671, §8 (NEW).]

J. For gross weight from 26,001 to 28,000 pounds, the fee is $137. [PL 2001, c. 671, §8 (NEW).]

K. For gross weight from 28,001 to 32,000 pounds, the fee is $166. [PL 2001, c. 671, §8 (NEW).]

L. For gross weight from 32,001 to 34,000 pounds, the fee is $217. [PL 2001, c. 671, §8 (NEW).]

M. For gross weight from 34,001 to 38,000 pounds, the fee is $265. [PL 2001, c. 671, §8 (NEW).]

N. For gross weight from 38,001 to 40,000 pounds, the fee is $276. [PL 2001, c. 671, §8 (NEW).]

O. For gross weight from 40,001 to 42,000 pounds, the fee is $288. [PL 2001, c. 671, §8 (NEW).]

P. For gross weight from 42,001 to 45,000 pounds, the fee is $305. [PL 2001, c. 671, §8 (NEW).]

Q. For gross weight from 45,001 to 48,000 pounds, the fee is $322. [PL 2001, c. 671, §8 (NEW).]

R. For gross weight from 48,001 to 51,000 pounds, the fee is $340. [PL 2001, c. 671, §8 (NEW).]

S. For gross weight from 51,001 to 54,000 pounds, the fee is $357. [PL 2001, c. 671, §8 (NEW).]

T. For gross weight from 54,001 to 55,000 pounds, the fee is $365. [PL 2001, c. 671, §8 (NEW).]

U. For gross weight from 55,001 to 60,000 pounds, the fee is $394. [PL 2001, c. 671, §8 (NEW).]

V. For gross weight from 60,001 to 65,000 pounds, the fee is $441. [PL 2001, c. 671, §8 (NEW).]

W. For gross weight from 65,001 to 69,000 pounds, the fee is $469. [PL 2001, c. 671, §8 (NEW).]
[PL 2007, c. 383, §§10, 11 (AMD).]

3. Maximum weight. The maximum registered weight of a farm truck is 69,000 pounds, including product. The fine for exceeding the registered gross weight of a farm truck is the difference between the fee for a farm truck and a commercially registered truck or truck tractor within the category of the actual weight at the time of the violation.
[PL 1999, c. 472, §2 (AMD).]

4. Special registration plates. The Secretary of State shall issue registration plates to distinguish a farm truck from a commercial vehicle. A farm truck may be driven with that registration only if the vehicle is used primarily for the transportation of agricultural products for a farm owned, operated or occupied by the registrant and may not be used for the transportation of firewood, unless that transportation is incidental to other farm operations.
[PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

5. Violation. A person commits a traffic infraction with a penalty of not less than $100 nor more than $500 if that person:

A. Fraudulently obtains a farm truck registration; or [PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. Q, §6 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. X, §2 (AFF).]

B. Uses a farm truck registration for a purpose other than authorized by this section. [PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. Q, §6 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. X, §2 (AFF).]
[PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. Q, §6 (AMD); PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. X, §2 (AFF).]

6. Additional fee; tire type. The fee for registering a farm truck equipped with 2 or more solid tires is 33 1/3% more than the fee required for a vehicle equipped with pneumatic tires.
[PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

7. Prorated fee; transportation of owner's agricultural produce. For a farm truck, 1/2 the registration fee must be charged during the last 6 months of a registration year.
[PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

8. Temporary registered class weight increase. Farm trucks registered under this section may receive a temporary registered class weight increase by paying a percentage of the difference between the amount paid for farm truck registration and the annual fee for the desired gross weight in accordance with the permit table contained in section 507.
[PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1993, c. 683, §A2 (NEW). PL 1993, c. 683, §B5 (AFF). PL 1995, c. 645, §C10 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 645, §C16 (AFF). PL 1999, c. 472, §§1,2 (AMD). PL 1999, c. 790, §C9 (AMD). PL 1999, c. 790, §C19 (AFF). PL 2001, c. 671, §§7,8 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 452, §Q6 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 452, §X2 (AFF). PL 2007, c. 383, §§10, 11 (AMD).

§506. Registration fee for motor homes

The annual fee for registration of motor homes is the same as for farm trucks. [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

The Secretary of State may select and issue a special distinguishing letter, mark or design for registration plates issued to motor homes. [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1993, c. 683, §A2 (NEW). PL 1993, c. 683, §B5 (AFF).

§507. Temporary registered gross weight increase

When a truck is properly base registered in this State, the registrant may increase the registered gross vehicle weight of the truck upon application and payment of the proper fee. Temporary registered gross weight increases may be issued by the Bureau of Motor Vehicles, the Bureau of the State Police or by any agent appointed by the Secretary of State who has been appointed for that specific purpose. [PL 2015, c. 473, §9 (AMD).]

Temporary registered gross weight increases must be issued for at least one month and may not exceed 8 months. A temporary registered gross weight increase may not extend beyond the expiration of the regular registration. [PL 1999, c. 466, §1 (AMD).]

The fee for a temporary registered gross weight increase is the difference between the annual fee for the original registration and the annual fee for the desired temporary registered gross weight multiplied by the percentage in the following table:

One month	20%
2 months	30%
3 months	40%
4 months	50%
5 months	60%
6 months	70%
7 months	75%
8 months	80% [PL 1999, c. 466, §1 (AMD).]

Vehicles base registered in this State pursuant to the International Registration Plan may be issued a temporary registered gross weight increase pursuant to this section. The fee is not apportionable, and the temporary registered gross weight increase is valid only in this State or in a jurisdiction not a member of the International Registration Plan. [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

The Secretary of State is authorized to issue temporary registered gross weight increases by facsimile means. The Secretary of State may make such provisions as the Secretary of State considers necessary to ensure the integrity of facsimile documents. [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1993, c. 683, §A2 (NEW). PL 1993, c. 683, §B5 (AFF). PL 1995, c. 65, §§A153,C15 (AFF). PL 1995, c. 65, §B3 (AMD). PL 1999, c. 466, §1 (AMD). PL 2015, c. 473, §9 (AMD).

§508. Truck campers

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1993, c. 683, §A2 (NEW). PL 1993, c. 683, §B5 (AFF). PL 1999, c. 790, §C10 (AMD). PL 1999, c. 790, §C19 (AFF). PL 2017, c. 67, §5 (RP).

§509. Tractors

1. Tractors. The annual fee for the registration of a tractor must accompany an application for registration and is as follows.

Tractors equipped with:

A. Pneumatic tires, 25¢ per horsepower and 25¢ per 100 pounds of weight; [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

B. Solid rubber tires, 25¢ per horsepower and 50¢ per 100 pounds of weight; and [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

C. Iron, steel or other hard tires, 25¢ per horsepower and 80¢ per 100 pounds of weight. [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

The minimum fee is $5.
[PL 1999, c. 790, Pt. C, §11 (AMD); PL 1999, c. 790, Pt. C, §19 (AFF).]

2. Tractors used for farming. The fee for a tractor used for agricultural purposes or not customarily used on public ways is $5, except as provided in section 510, subsection 1.
[PL 1999, c. 790, Pt. C, §11 (AMD); PL 1999, c. 790, Pt. C, §19 (AFF).]

3. Old homemade tractors used for farming. The fee for a homemade tractor used for agricultural purposes with motor and chassis at least 10 years old that has a body capacity of not more than 1 1/2 cubic yards and that is used exclusively for agricultural purposes is $5. Such a vehicle may not be operated on the highway more than 10 miles from the place where the vehicle is customarily kept.
[PL 1999, c. 790, Pt. C, §11 (AMD); PL 1999, c. 790, Pt. C, §19 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1993, c. 683, §A2 (NEW). PL 1993, c. 683, §B5 (AFF). PL 1995, c. 645, §C11 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 645, §C16 (AFF). PL 1999, c. 790, §C11 (AMD). PL 1999, c. 790, §C19 (AFF).

§510. Exemption from registration

1. Tractors used for farming. Registration or a license is not required for a tractor or trailer used solely for farming purposes when operated to or from:

A. The premises where kept; [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

B. A farm lot and between farm lots, when used for farm purposes; or [PL 2013, c. 496, §5 (AMD).]

C. A filling station or garage for fuel or repairs. [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]
[PL 2013, c. 496, §5 (AMD).]

2. Skidder. Registration is not required for a log skidder used solely for logging purposes when operated to or from:

A. The premises where kept and a woodlot, or between woodlots used for logging purposes; or [PL 2013, c. 496, §6 (AMD).]

B. A filling station or garage for fuel or repairs. [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]
[PL 2013, c. 496, §6 (AMD).]

3. Tractors used for logging. Registration is not required for a converted motor vehicle used as a tractor when used solely for logging purposes when operated to or from:

A. The premises where the tractor is kept; [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

B. A woodlot and between woodlots used for logging purposes; or [PL 2013, c. 496, §7 (AMD).]

C. A filling station or garage for fuel or repairs. [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]
[PL 2013, c. 496, §7 (AMD).]

4. Privilege to operate a tractor or skidder suspended. If a person's license has been revoked or suspended, that person may not operate a tractor or log skidder on a public way except as provided in subsection 1, paragraphs A and B, subsection 2, paragraph A or subsection 3, paragraphs A and B until the Secretary of State reinstates that person's license or issues to that person another license.
[PL 2013, c. 496, §8 (AMD).]

5. Tow dollies. Registration is not required for a tow dolly.
[PL 2011, c. 356, §8 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1993, c. 683, §A2 (NEW). PL 1993, c. 683, §B5 (AFF). PL 1999, c. 183, §1 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 356, §8 (AMD). PL 2013, c. 496, §§5-8 (AMD).

§511. Trailers and semitrailers

1. Registration fees; trailers and semitrailers. The following annual registration fee applies to trailers, semitrailers and camp trailers.

A. The fee is $10.50 for a:

(1) Trailer, camp trailer or semitrailer not exceeding 2,000 pounds gross vehicle weight; or

(3) Mobile home. [PL 1999, c. 790, Pt. C, §12 (AMD); PL 1999, c. 790, Pt. C, §19 (AFF).]

B. The fee is $20 for a camp trailer exceeding 2,000 pounds. [PL 2003, c. 253, §1 (AMD); PL 2003, c. 253, §5 (AFF).]

C. The fee is $20 for a semitrailer exceeding 2,000 pounds. [PL 2003, c. 253, §1 (AMD); PL 2003, c. 253, §5 (AFF).]

D. Except as provided in paragraph A, a trailer exceeding 2,000 pounds must be registered on the basis of gross weight in accordance with the schedule under section 504. [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

Fees paid under this section and section 512 are administrative fees and nonapportionable. The Secretary of State may collect apportionable fees for trailers and semitrailers pursuant to the International Registration Plan.

Except for camp trailers, registrations under this section may be issued for 2 years for a fee twice that of the annual registration fee.
[PL 2003, c. 253, §1 (AMD); PL 2003, c. 253, §5 (AFF).]

2. Exemption for circus and carnival trailers. Circus and carnival trailers or semitrailers unloaded from railroad cars at the nearest railroad station or railroad siding and hauled to and from circus or carnival grounds are exempt from fees for registration and licensing.
[PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

3. Converted semitrailers. A semitrailer that is temporarily converted to a full trailer by use of a converter dolly may be registered as a semitrailer.
[PL 1995, c. 65, Pt. A, §153 (AFF); PL 1995, c. 65, Pt. B, §5 (NEW); PL 1995, c. 65, Pt. C, §15 (AFF).]

4. Duplicate registrations for trailers and semitrailers. At the time of registration, a person registering a trailer or semitrailer that exceeds 2,000 pounds, in accordance with this section or section 512, may apply for and receive a duplicate registration for an additional $2 fee. This subsection does not apply to camp trailers.
[PL 1995, c. 513, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1993, c. 683, §A2 (NEW). PL 1993, c. 683, §B5 (AFF). PL 1995, c. 65, §§A153,C15 (AFF). PL 1995, c. 65, §§B4,5 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 513, §1 (AMD). PL 1999, c. 790, §§C12,13 (AMD). PL 1999, c. 790, §C19 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 253, §1 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 253, §5 (AFF).

§512. Semipermanent and permanent registration plates for trailers and semitrailers

The Secretary of State may establish an 8-year and 12-year semipermanent registration plate program for trailers and semitrailers and a 20-year semipermanent registration plate program and a 25-year permanent registration program for semitrailers and under these programs may issue registration plates of a design determined by the Secretary of State. A person registering a semitrailer in accordance with this section may register a semitrailer for fewer than 5 years only to maintain a common expiration date for a fleet. [PL 1997, c. 776, §14 (AMD).]

The Secretary of State may establish rules for the extension of registrations issued pursuant to this section. Rules adopted pursuant to this section are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A. [PL 2007, c. 703, §11 (RPR).]

A nonresident registrant shall designate a resident agent for the service of process. A resident agent must be a resident of this State. For the purposes of this section, a resident includes a person registered with the Secretary of State, Bureau of Corporations, Elections and Commissions to do business in this State. [PL 1997, c. 437, §9 (NEW).]

The application for registration must contain the information prescribed in section 401, except that the Secretary of State may waive or modify the signature requirements. [PL 1997, c. 437, §9 (NEW).]

1. Eight-year and 12-year semipermanent registration plate program for trailers and semitrailers. Any person may apply on a form supplied by the Secretary of State for a semipermanent registration plate.

A. [PL 1997, c. 437, §10 (RP).]

B. The fee is $12 for each semitrailer, and the fee is $5 for each trailer of not more than 2,000 pounds gross vehicle weight.

Fees for the first 3 years of a registration may not be refunded. Fees for the 4th and subsequent years may be refunded prior to the start of the registration year provided that the registration plate and certificate are returned to the Secretary of State. After the start of the registration year, fees for the current year may be refunded if the plate and certificate are returned within 120 days and the Secretary of State is satisfied that the credentials were not used during the registration period. [PL 2003, c. 253, §2 (AMD); PL 2003, c. 253, §5 (AFF).]

C. With the agreement of the Commissioner of Transportation, the Secretary of State may adopt rules for the payment of the fees in annual or biennial installments. In adopting those rules, the Secretary of State shall consider the financial effect of the registration fee on the registrants, the benefit or burden of installment payment on state revenues and the difficulty of administering this subsection. [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

D. Notwithstanding section 401, an application for registration must be signed by the owner or lessee applying for registration, the person authorized by the applicant or the applicant's designated agent. [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

E. On approval of an application, the Secretary of State shall:

(1) Record the registration of the semitrailer or trailer described in the application and assign a distinguishing number or other mark;

(2) Issue a certificate of registration that contains the name and address of the owner or lessee or the address of its designated agent; and

(3) Furnish one semipermanent registration plate for each trailer or semitrailer. [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

F. Semipermanent registration plates expire at the end of the semipermanent plate program or, in the case of a new semitrailer or new trailer, at the end of the 12th registration year following the year of issuance. The registration plates issued for the next program may be displayed on and after

December 1st of the preceding calendar year. A registration plate issued after the commencement of the plate program may be displayed either beginning on the date of purchase or on the February 1st following issuance, depending upon the number of paid registration years. [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

[PL 2003, c. 253, §2 (AMD); PL 2003, c. 253, §5 (AFF).]

2. Twenty-year semipermanent semitrailer registration plate program. Corporations applying for a minimum of 1,000 registrations in a registration year may apply for semipermanent semitrailer registration plates which may be issued for periods of up to 20 years.

A. The fee for each registration is $12 per year or portion of a year. The Secretary of State shall establish a procedure to bill each registrant using semipermanent semitrailer registrations once annually except the billing at the time of purchase of a full 20-year registration must be for a 3-year period. Fees for the first 3 years are nonrefundable. A fee for a registration of less than 20 years must be prorated accordingly. If any registrant fails to remit the payment in a timely manner, the Secretary of State shall suspend all registrations issued to that registrant pursuant to this subsection. [PL 2003, c. 253, §3 (AMD); PL 2003, c. 253, §5 (AFF).]

B. [PL 1997, c. 437, §12 (RP).]

C. The Secretary of State may authorize resident agents to receive unassigned registration plates and registration certificates on behalf of registrants. Resident agents are responsible for all registration plates and registration certificates in their possession pursuant to this subsection. [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

D. Registration plates issued pursuant to this subsection are valid and may be displayed upon issue for renewal purposes only. Registrations issued pursuant to this subsection remain active unless canceled or reported lost. [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

E. All registration certificates issued pursuant to this subsection must be signed by the owner, lessee, corporate officer, resident agent or other authorized person. [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

[PL 2003, c. 253, §3 (AMD); PL 2003, c. 253, §5 (AFF).]

3. Permanent registration program. A person registering 20,000 or more semitrailers may be issued 25-year permanent registrations. For the purposes of this subsection, "permanent registration" means a long-term trailer registration certificate and plate with an expiration date of December 31st, 25 years from the year of issue.

A. The fee for each registration is $80. The fee is nonrefundable. [PL 1997, c. 776, §16 (NEW).]

B. All registrations expire on December 31st, 25 years from the year of issue. [PL 1997, c. 776, §16 (NEW).]

C. The registrant may transfer an unexpired registration to a semitrailer not previously registered to the registrant in this State. The transfer fee is $20. [PL 1997, c. 776, §16 (NEW).]

D. The Secretary of State may adopt rules to implement this subsection. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A. [PL 2019, c. 397, §10 (AMD).]

[PL 2019, c. 397, §10 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1993, c. 683, §A2 (NEW). PL 1993, c. 683, §B5 (AFF). PL 1995, c. 645, §B9 (AMD). PL 1997, c. 437, §§9-12 (AMD). PL 1997, c. 683, §A17 (AMD). PL 1997, c. 776, §§13-16 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 253, §§2,3 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 253, §5 (AFF). PL 2007, c. 703, §11 (AMD). PL 2019, c. 397, §10 (AMD).

§513. Special mobile equipment

1. Definition. For the purpose of this section, "special mobile equipment" does not include a vehicle that may be used for the conveyance of property except:

A. Conveying hand tools or parts used in connection with the operation of that equipment; or [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

B. Road construction or maintenance machinery transporting earth on that portion of the highway under construction. [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

[PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

1-A. Registration required. Except as provided in subsection 3, special mobile equipment used on public ways, including, but not limited to, equipment that is rented from a location in this State or outside this State, regardless of whether the main office or headquarters of the owner of the equipment is located in this State or outside this State, must be registered in this State in accordance with this chapter.

[PL 2011, c. 356, §9 (AMD).]

2. Annual registration fee. The annual registration fee for special mobile equipment that is permanently mounted on a traction unit or motor chassis is as follows.

A. Class A special mobile equipment must be operated under an annual registration. The fee for a Class A special mobile equipment registration permit is as follows.

(1) For gross weight from 0 to 54,000 pounds, the fee is as in section 505, subsection 2-A.

(2) For gross weight from 54,001 to 60,000 pounds, the fee is $387.

(3) For gross weight from 60,001 to 65,000 pounds, the fee is $417.

(4) For gross weight from 65,001 to 70,000 pounds, the fee is $447.

(5) For gross weight from 70,001 to 75,000 pounds, the fee is $477.

(6) For gross weight from 75,001 to 80,000 pounds, the fee is $507.

(7) For gross weight from 80,001 to 90,000 pounds, the fee is $567.

(8) For gross weight from 90,001 to 94,000 pounds, the fee is $592.

(9) For gross weight from 94,001 to 100,000 pounds, the fee is $712. [PL 2001, c. 671, §9 (AMD).]

B. The fee for Class B special mobile equipment is $20. [PL 1999, c. 790, Pt. C, §14 (AMD); PL 1999, c. 790, Pt. C, §19 (AFF).]

C. For Class B special mobile equipment, if the gross weight is in excess of 20,000 pounds, the registrant must obtain a permit as required by section 2382, subsection 5. [PL 2005, c. 501, §2 (AMD).]

D. Special mobile equipment may be operated unloaded between construction projects and to or from the place where the vehicle is customarily kept, if a permit is first obtained under section 2382, subsection 5. [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

[PL 2005, c. 501, §2 (AMD).]

3. Exemption from registration. Special mobile equipment that is used exclusively on the closed portion of a public way for the limited purposes of constructing or repairing that public way and that is transported by another vehicle to and from the construction project is exempt from registration under this chapter. For purposes of this subsection, the special mobile equipment must be operated only within the boundaries of a closed way. Notwithstanding section 1601, the owner or operator of special

mobile equipment that is exempt from registration pursuant to this subsection shall maintain the amounts of financial responsibility specified in section 1605.
[PL 2011, c. 356, §10 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1993, c. 683, §A2 (NEW). PL 1993, c. 683, §B5 (AFF). PL 1995, c. 645, §C12 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 645, §C16 (AFF). PL 1999, c. 790, §C14 (AMD). PL 1999, c. 790, §C19 (AFF). PL 2001, c. 361, §8 (AMD). PL 2001, c. 361, §38 (AFF). PL 2001, c. 671, §9 (AMD). PL 2005, c. 501, §§1,2 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 356, §§9, 10 (AMD).

§514. Evasion of registration fees and excise taxes

A person required to register a vehicle in this State who instead registers the vehicle in another state or province or who fails to register a vehicle in this State is guilty of evasion of registration fees and excise taxes. Violation of this section is a traffic infraction punishable by a fine of not less than $500 nor more than $1,000. [PL 1999, c. 611, §1 (AMD).]

The Secretary of State shall notify the State Tax Assessor upon receipt of the court abstract so that the State Tax Assessor may determine whether further investigation is necessary. [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

For purposes of this section, a person is presumed to be a resident of the State if that person has:
[PL 1999, c. 611, §1 (NEW).]

1. Enrolled child in public school. Enrolled a minor child of whom that person has sole or primary custody in a public school within the State; or
[PL 1999, c. 611, §1 (NEW).]

2. Declared or indicated primary residence in State. Declared, indicated or stated that that person's primary residence is in the State on any form, document or application used by public and private entities or persons.

An oral statement by a person stating a Maine address as that person's primary residence is prima facie evidence of primary residence under this section.
[PL 1999, c. 611, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1993, c. 683, §A2 (NEW). PL 1993, c. 683, §B5 (AFF). PL 1995, c. 454, §3 (AMD). PL 1997, c. 252, §1 (AMD). PL 1997, c. 776, §17 (AMD). PL 1999, c. 611, §1 (AMD).

§515. Motorcycles and parking control vehicles

The annual fee for registering: [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

1. Motorcycle. A motorcycle or a parking control vehicle is $21; and
[PL 1999, c. 790, Pt. C, §15 (AMD); PL 1999, c. 790, Pt. C, §19 (AFF).]

2. Moped. A moped is $9.
[PL 1999, c. 790, Pt. C, §15 (AMD); PL 1999, c. 790, Pt. C, §19 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1993, c. 683, §A2 (NEW). PL 1993, c. 683, §B5 (AFF). PL 1995, c. 645, §C13 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 645, §C16 (AFF). PL 1999, c. 790, §C15 (AMD). PL 1999, c. 790, §C19 (AFF).

§515-A. Motorcycle registration plates

Motorcycle registration plates must bear the words "Ride Safe." Motorcycle registration plates issued prior to January 1, 1998 may be replaced, upon a registrant's request, by plates issued under this

section. The registrant shall surrender the original plates and pay a one-time $5 fee for the replacement plates. [PL 1997, c. 393, Pt. D, §2 (AMD).]

Motorcycle plates issued under sections 457, 515-B, 517 and 523 are exempt from this section. [PL 2001, c. 361, §9 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1997, c. 287, §1 (NEW). PL 1997, c. 287, §2 (AFF). PL 1997, c. 393, §D2 (AMD). PL 2001, c. 361, §9 (AMD).

§515-B. Purple Heart medal recipients; special motorcycle registration plates

The Secretary of State, on application and upon evidence of payment of the excise tax required by Title 36, section 1482, shall issue a registration certificate and a Purple Heart motorcycle registration plate, to be used in lieu of a regular registration plate, to a person who is a Purple Heart medal recipient. Notwithstanding section 468, the Secretary of State may issue fewer than 2,000 of the plates authorized by this section, and this plate does not require a sponsor. [PL 2003, c. 67, §1 (AMD).]

1. Application. An application for Purple Heart motorcycle registration 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.
[PL 1999, c. 734, §1 (NEW).]

2. Surviving spouse. The surviving spouse of a Purple Heart recipient issued motorcycle registration 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 motorcycle, 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 motorcycle.
[PL 1999, c. 734, §1 (NEW).]

3. Design. The Secretary of State shall determine the design of the Purple Heart motorcycle registration plate. Upon request and as provided by section 453, the Secretary of State shall issue Purple Heart motorcycle registration plates that are also vanity plates. Purple Heart vanity plates are issued in accordance with this section and section 453.
[PL 2013, c. 496, §9 (AMD).]

4. Recognition plates. A Purple Heart recipient or the surviving spouse of a Purple Heart recipient who does not operate a motorcycle or register a motorcycle and who otherwise qualifies for the issuance of special Purple Heart motorcycle registration plates may apply to the Secretary of State for a special single plate recognizing that award. The Secretary of State shall design and identify these special single plates for recognition purposes only. Special single plates may not be attached to a motorcycle. Only one plate may be issued to each recipient.
[PL 2011, c. 356, §11 (AMD).]

The Secretary of State shall begin issuing Purple Heart motorcycle registration plates in accordance with this section no later than November 1, 2000. [PL 1999, c. 734, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1999, c. 734, §1 (NEW). PL 2001, c. 155, §1 (AMD). PL 2001, c. 361, §10 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 67, §1 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 356, §11 (AMD). PL 2013, c. 496, §9 (AMD).

§516. Stock car

The annual fee for registering a stock race car is $7. [PL 1999, c. 790, Pt. C, §16 (AMD); PL 1999, c. 790, Pt. C, §19 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1993, c. 683, §A2 (NEW). PL 1993, c. 683, §B5 (AFF). PL 1999, c. 790, §C16 (AMD). PL 1999, c. 790, §C19 (AFF).

§517. Government vehicles

1. Exemption. The following vehicles are exempt from registration fees, but must be registered and are subject to inspection requirements:

A. Vehicles owned by the State; [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

B. Vehicles owned by a county; [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

C. Vehicles owned or used by a municipality; [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

D. [PL 1995, c. 65, Pt. A, §153 (AFF); PL 1995, c. 65, Pt. C, §4 (RP); PL 1995, c. 65, Pt. C, §15 (AFF).]

E. Vehicles owned by a school district; [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

F. Vehicles owned by a water district; [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

G. Vehicles loaned by a dealer for use in driver education in a public school or private secondary school; [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

H. Vehicles loaned by a dealer to a municipality for use by a law enforcement agency for educational purposes; [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

I. Vehicles loaned to the University of Maine System and the Maine Community College System and used in organized programs; [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF); PL 2003, c. 20, Pt. OO, §2 (AMD); PL 2003, c. 20, Pt. OO, §4 (AFF).]

J. Vehicles owned by the University of Maine System; [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

K. School buses operated under a lease of at least 30 days to a municipality or school district; and [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

L. Vehicles used in volunteer ambulance or rescue squad services. [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

[PL 1995, c. 65, Pt. A, §153 (AFF); PL 1995, c. 65, Pt. C, §4 (AMD); PL 1995, c. 65, Pt. C, §15 (AFF); PL 2003, c. 20, Pt. OO, §2 (AMD); PL 2003, c. 20, Pt. OO, §4 (AFF).]

1-A. Vehicles owned or used by fire departments. Vehicles owned or used exclusively by municipal fire departments or volunteer fire associations as defined in Title 30-A, section 3151 are exempt from registration requirements and registration fees. The Secretary of State shall register vehicles owned or used exclusively by a municipal fire department or a volunteer fire association upon request of the municipality or volunteer fire association.

Vehicles owned or used by municipal fire departments or volunteer fire associations are not exempt from the inspection requirements of chapter 15, subchapter I.

[PL 1995, c. 65, Pt. A, §153 (AFF); PL 1995, c. 65, Pt. C, §5 (NEW); PL 1995, c. 65, Pt. C, §15 (AFF).]

1-B. Low-speed vehicle. A low-speed vehicle loaned by a dealer to a municipality is exempt from registration fees and is not subject to inspection pursuant to section 1752 but must be registered and must be in compliance with equipment provisions under section 1925.

[PL 2003, c. 490, Pt. D, §1 (NEW).]

2. Plates. The Secretary of State shall issue distinctive plates that expire at the end of a 6-year period for state plates and a 10-year period for municipal plates within the semipermanent plate program. Notwithstanding section 501, subsection 11, the Secretary of State shall issue distinctive municipal plates under this subsection to a low-speed vehicle owned by a municipality or loaned by a dealer to a municipality. Vehicles owned by the State may display a marker or insignia, approved by the Secretary of State, plainly designating them as owned by the State.

The Secretary of State may issue environmental or sportsman registration plates to a state-owned vehicle assigned to the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife or the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry with authorization from the department's commissioner. The Secretary of State may issue environmental or sportsman registration plates to a state-owned vehicle assigned to the Baxter State Park Authority with authorization from the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife in the commissioner's capacity as a member of the Baxter State Park Authority. A state-owned vehicle issued environmental or sportsman registration plates must display a marker or insignia designating the vehicle as state-owned and is exempt from registration fees and the contribution under section 455, subsection 4.

The Secretary of State may issue agricultural education plates to a state-owned vehicle assigned to the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry with authorization from the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry. A state-owned vehicle issued agricultural education plates must display a marker or insignia designating the vehicle as state-owned and is exempt from registration fees and the contribution under section 456-F, subsection 2.

The Secretary of State may issue lobster plates to a state-owned vehicle assigned to the Department of Marine Resources with authorization from the Commissioner of Marine Resources. A state-owned vehicle issued lobster plates must display a marker or insignia designating the vehicle as state-owned and is exempt from registration fees and the contribution under section 456-A, subsection 2.
[PL 2009, c. 598, §3 (AMD); PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. W, §§5, 6 (REV).]

3. Exception. If an exempt vehicle is leased or rented for commercial purposes, registration fees must be paid for that vehicle.
[PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

4. Unmarked law enforcement vehicles. An unmarked motor vehicle used primarily for law enforcement purposes, when authorized by the Secretary of State and upon approval from the appropriate requesting authority, is exempt from displaying a special registration plate. Records for all unmarked vehicle registrations are confidential.

[PL 2015, c. 250, Pt. C, §5 (AMD).]

5. Municipal police vehicles. A vehicle owned by a municipality and used by a full-time law enforcement department may be issued special police registration plates at the request of the chief law enforcement official of that municipality.
[PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

6. Federal government vehicles. The Secretary of State may issue registration certificates and plates without fee to federal or other governmental agencies. Vehicles owned by the Federal Government used under lease to a Maine resident must be registered in this State.
[PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

7. County sheriff vehicles. A vehicle owned by a county and used by a full-time law enforcement department may be issued special registration plates at the request of the chief law enforcement official of the county. The Secretary of State, in consultation with the Maine Sheriffs' Association, shall design county law enforcement registration plates. A county sheriff requesting special plates shall reimburse the Highway Fund the cost associated with the production and issuance of the plates.

[PL 1995, c. 428, §1 (NEW).]

8. Unmarked vehicles for child welfare purposes. Notwithstanding Title 5, section 7, an unmarked motor vehicle used regularly for work protecting the welfare of children under Title 22, chapter 1071, when authorized by the Secretary of State and upon approval from the appropriate requesting authority, is exempt from displaying a special registration plate.
[PL 2023, c. 542, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1993, c. 683, §A2 (NEW). PL 1993, c. 683, §B5 (AFF). PL 1995, c. 65, §§A91,C4,5 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 65, §§A153,C15 (AFF). PL 1995, c. 202, §1 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 428, §1 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 20, §OO2 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 20, §OO4 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 490, §§D1,2 (AMD). PL 2009, c. 435, §4 (AMD). PL 2009, c. 598, §3 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. W, §§5, 6 (REV). PL 2015, c. 250, Pt. C, §5 (AMD). PL 2023, c. 542, §1 (AMD).

§517-A. Registration exemption for vehicles owned by veterans groups and used exclusively for ceremonial activities

Vehicles owned by an organized veterans group and used exclusively for ceremonial activities, including parades, are exempt from registration requirements and registration fees. These vehicles must be inspected pursuant to chapter 15, subchapter I. For purposes of this section, "organized veterans group" means the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars or an organized league of veterans of the United States Marine Corps. [PL 2001, c. 116, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2001, c. 116, §1 (NEW).

§517-B. Registration exemption for antique farm tractors used in demonstrations, parades, ceremonies and organized charitable events

Farm tractors or farm equipment at least 25 years old, as determined by the model year, are exempt from registration requirements and registration fees when used for demonstrations, ceremonies, parades or organized charitable events. [PL 2009, c. 435, §5 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2009, c. 435, §5 (NEW).

§518. Emergency vehicles

Emergency vehicles registered in another jurisdiction and operating in this State as a result of a declared emergency are exempt from further registration requirements. [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1993, c. 683, §A2 (NEW). PL 1993, c. 683, §B5 (AFF).

§519. Registration plates for firefighters

1. Authority to issue special registration plate. Upon application by an active firefighter whose status is certified by the fire chief, assistant fire chief or acting fire chief appointed or elected pursuant to Title 30-A, section 3153, the Secretary of State shall issue a special firefighter registration plate.
[PL 2005, c. 80, §1 (AMD).]

2. Registration plate design. The Secretary of State may design a numerical registration plate.
[PL 1999, c. 470, §5 (AMD).]

3. Use of registration plate. The registration plate may be used on only one motor vehicle with a registered gross weight of not more than 10,000 pounds.

[PL 2007, c. 383, §12 (AMD).]

4. Fee for registration plate. An additional one-time fee of $5 is charged for a set of firefighter registration plates.
[PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

5. Recall of registration plate. Except as provided in subsection 6, when a firefighter ceases to be an active firefighter, the fire chief shall notify the Secretary of State and the Secretary of State shall recall the registration plate.
[PL 2005, c. 80, §1 (AMD).]

6. Retired firefighter; retention of registration plate. Upon approval by the fire chief, assistant fire chief or acting fire chief, a retired firefighter may continue to use the registration plates issued under this section. Upon the death of the firefighter, the family of the firefighter may retain the registration plates but may not use them on a vehicle.
[PL 2005, c. 80, §1 (NEW).]

7. Firefighter vanity plates. Effective March 1, 2006 the Secretary of State shall issue firefighter registration plates that are also vanity plates. Firefighter registration vanity plates are issued in accordance with section 453. Firefighter registration vanity plates may not duplicate vanity registration plates in any other class of plate.
[PL 2005, c. 80, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1993, c. 683, §A2 (NEW). PL 1993, c. 683, §B5 (AFF). PL 1999, c. 470, §5 (AMD). PL 2005, c. 80, §1 (AMD). PL 2007, c. 383, §12 (AMD).

§519-A. Registration plates for emergency medical services persons

1. Authority to issue special registration plates. Notwithstanding section 468-A and upon application by an emergency medical services person licensed under Title 32, chapter 2-B whose status is certified by the Director of Maine Emergency Medical Services within the Department of Public Safety, the Secretary of State shall issue a set of special emergency medical services registration plates to that person.
[PL 2017, c. 302, §1 (NEW).]

2. Registration plate design. The Secretary of State may design a numerical registration plate to be issued under this section.
[PL 2017, c. 302, §1 (NEW).]

3. Use of registration plates. The registration plates issued under this section may be used on only one motor vehicle with a registered gross weight of not more than 10,000 pounds.
[PL 2017, c. 302, §1 (NEW).]

4. Fee for registration plates. A one-time fee of $5 is charged for a set of emergency medical services registration plates in addition to the annual motor vehicle registration fee required by section 501.
[PL 2017, c. 302, §1 (NEW).]

5. Recall of registration plates. When an emergency medical services person is no longer licensed under Title 32, chapter 2-B, the Director of Maine Emergency Medical Services within the Department of Public Safety shall notify the Secretary of State and the Secretary of State shall recall any registration plates issued to that person under this section.
[PL 2017, c. 302, §1 (NEW).]

6. Vanity registration plates. The Secretary of State shall issue emergency medical services registration plates that are also vanity plates. Emergency medical services registration vanity plates are

issued in accordance with section 453. Emergency medical services registration vanity plates may not duplicate vanity registration plates in any other class of plate.
[PL 2017, c. 302, §1 (NEW).]

7. Date of first issue. The Secretary of State shall issue emergency medical services registration plates on or after January 1, 2018.
[PL 2017, c. 302, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2017, c. 302, §1 (NEW).

§520. Special equipment

1. Registration fee. The annual registration fee for special equipment, based on gross weight, is $10 for equipment weighing one to 2,000 pounds; $15 for 2,001 to 5,000 pounds; and $20 for over 5,000 pounds.

Registrations under this section may be issued for 2 years for a fee twice that of the annual registration fee.
[PL 2009, c. 598, §4 (AMD).]

2. Exception. Registration is not required when special equipment is used solely:

A. On that part of a public way adjoining the premises of the owner; or [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

B. For farm purposes, and public way use is limited to travel from or to:

(1) The premises where the equipment is kept;

(2) A farm lot and between farm lots used for farm purposes by the owner; or

(3) A filling station or garage for fuel or repairs. [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]
[PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1993, c. 683, §A2 (NEW). PL 1993, c. 683, §B5 (AFF). PL 1995, c. 645, §C14 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 645, §C16 (AFF). PL 1999, c. 790, §C17 (AMD). PL 1999, c. 790, §C19 (AFF). PL 2009, c. 598, §4 (AMD).

§521. Registration; disability registration plates

1. Definition. "Person with a disability" means a person whose disability limits or impairs the ability to walk, as determined and certified by a licensed physician, physician associate, nurse practitioner or registered nurse, to the extent that the person:

A. Can not walk 200 feet without stopping to rest; [PL 1995, c. 482, Pt. A, §4 (NEW).]

B. Can not walk without assistance from another person or the use of a brace, cane, crutch, prosthetic device, wheelchair or other assistive device; [PL 1995, c. 482, Pt. A, §4 (NEW).]

C. Is restricted by lung disease to such an extent that the person's forced expiratory volume for one second when measured by spirometry is less than 1 liter or when the arterial oxygen tension is less than 60m/hg on room air at rest; [PL 1995, c. 482, Pt. A, §4 (NEW).]

D. Uses portable oxygen; [PL 1995, c. 482, Pt. A, §4 (NEW).]

E. Has a cardiac condition to the extent that the person's functional limitations are classified in severity as Class 3 or Class 4 according to standards set by the American Heart Association; [PL 2003, c. 431, §1 (AMD).]

F. Is severely limited in the ability to walk due to an arthritic, neurological or orthopedic condition; or [PL 2003, c. 431, §2 (AMD).]

G. Is recovering from childbirth. [PL 2003, c. 431, §3 (NEW).]
[PL 2007, c. 703, §12 (AMD); PL 2025, c. 316, §3 (REV).]

2. Disability registration plates. Disability registration plates must bear the International Symbol of Access, which must be in a color that contrasts with the background and is the same size as the letters or numbers on the plate. The Secretary of State may issue disability registration plates to the following:

A. A person with a disability; [PL 1995, c. 482, Pt. A, §4 (NEW).]

B. A vehicle owner who is a spouse, parent or legal guardian of a person with a disability when the person with a disability is a resident of this State, a member of the relative's or guardian's household and dependent on the vehicle owner as the primary means of transportation; or [PL 1995, c. 482, Pt. A, §4 (NEW).]

C. An organization or agency in this State that transports persons with disabilities. [PL 1995, c. 482, Pt. A, §4 (NEW).]
[PL 1999, c. 544, §1 (AMD).]

3. Removable windshield placards. The Secretary of State may issue a removable windshield placard to a person with a disability or an organization or agency in this State that transports persons with disabilities. A removable windshield placard is a 2-sided permit designed to hang from the rearview mirror when the vehicle is not in motion. The following provisions apply to placards.

A. The placard must be displayed by hanging it from the rearview mirror so that it may be viewed from the front and rear of the vehicle when the vehicle is using a parking space for a person with a disability. If the vehicle is not equipped with a rearview mirror, the placard must be displayed on the dashboard. The windshield placard must be removed from the rearview mirror when the vehicle is in motion. [PL 1995, c. 482, Pt. A, §4 (RPR).]

B. The placard must be blue with white print and contain the International Symbol of Access, at least 3 inches high, centered on the placard. The placard must contain the permit number, the expiration date and the seal of the Secretary of State. In the case of an organization or agency, the placard must be green with white print and contain the same information, except that the name of the organization must appear along with the expiration date that must be determined by the Secretary of State. [PL 2015, c. 473, §10 (AMD).]

C. A windshield placard may be displayed on any properly registered motor vehicle only when the person with a disability is a passenger or the operator or when the driver of the vehicle is waiting for a service to be rendered to the person with a disability. [PL 1995, c. 482, Pt. A, §4 (RPR).]
[PL 2015, c. 473, §10 (AMD).]

4. Motorcycle. A person with a disability who has registered a motorcycle may be issued a disability plate as a registration plate. The registration plate must bear the International Symbol of Access, which must be in a color that contrasts with the background and must be the same size as the letters or numbers on the plate.
[PL 1995, c. 482, Pt. A, §4 (RPR).]

5. Application; issuance. The following provisions apply to an application for and the issuance of a disability plate or placard.

A. An application for a disability plate or placard must be accompanied by the certificate of a physician, physician associate, nurse practitioner or registered nurse attesting to the applicant's physical disability as defined in subsection 1. The physician, physician associate, nurse practitioner or registered nurse shall designate the duration of the applicant's disability not to exceed 6 years or designate the applicant's disability as permanent. The Secretary of State shall issue to an eligible

applicant disability plates and windshield placards upon request. A disability plate or placard issued to a person for whom the duration of the person's disability has been designated as not exceeding 6 years expires upon the expiration of the duration of the disability as designated by the physician, physician associate, nurse practitioner or registered nurse. [PL 2013, c. 496, §10 (NEW); PL 2025, c. 316, §3 (REV).]

B. When the Secretary of State determines the disability to be permanent from the application, the applicant is not required to continue to provide proof of disability upon renewal of the applicant's disability plate or placard. A disability plate or placard issued with a determination pursuant to this paragraph may be renewed for a period not to exceed 6 years. The Secretary of State may adopt rules to implement this paragraph. Rules adopted pursuant to this paragraph are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A. [PL 2021, c. 533, §1 (AMD).]

C. When the applicant's need for the disability plate or placard terminates or the applicant dies, the disability plate or placard must be returned to the Secretary of State. Notwithstanding subsection 2, paragraphs B and C, the provisions of this subsection, as regards the issuance of a disability plate or placard for a person with a permanent disability, apply only to that person. [PL 2013, c. 496, §10 (NEW).]

[PL 2021, c. 533, §1 (AMD); PL 2025, c. 316, §3 (REV).]

6. Temporary placards. The Secretary of State may issue a temporary placard to a person who is temporarily disabled. A temporary placard is a 2-sided permit designed to hang from the rearview mirror when the vehicle is not in motion. The following provisions apply to temporary placards.

A. An application for a temporary placard must be accompanied by the certificate of a physician, physician associate, nurse practitioner or registered nurse attesting to the applicant's physical disability as defined in subsection 1 and the period of time that the physician, physician associate, nurse practitioner or registered nurse determines the applicant will have the disability. A temporary placard is not valid for a period of more than 6 months. The Secretary of State shall give priority consideration to requests for temporary placards.

A temporary placard issued pursuant to subsection 1, paragraph G is valid, after the birth of a child, for a period of not more than:

(1) One week after cesarean section delivery; or

(2) A time to be determined by the patient's physician after the birth of a preterm infant. [PL 2007, c. 703, §14 (AMD); PL 2025, c. 316, §3 (REV).]

B. The placard must be red with white print and contain the International Symbol of Access, at least 3 inches high, centered on the placard. The placard must contain the permit number, the expiration date specified by the physician and the seal of the Secretary of State. [PL 1995, c. 645, Pt. A, §5 (AMD).]

C. During the period for which it is valid, a temporary placard carries the same privileges as a disability windshield placard and has the same use restrictions specified in subsection 3. [PL 1995, c. 482, Pt. A, §4 (RPR).]

D. [PL 1995, c. 482, Pt. A, §4 (RP).]

[PL 2007, c. 703, §14 (AMD); PL 2025, c. 316, §3 (REV).]

6-A. Parking permit. The Secretary of State shall create a 21-day parking permit for a person with a disability to be used while a person is waiting to receive a disability registration plate or placard and may appoint a licensed physician, physician associate, nurse practitioner or registered nurse as an agent authorized solely to issue such a permit. The Secretary of State shall determine by rule qualifications and requirements for an agent authorized under this subsection. The 21-day parking permit must be in a form prescribed by the Secretary of State by rule and convey the privileges and

restrictions authorized under this section. The 21-day parking permit must be displayed in a manner so that it may be viewed from the front of the vehicle whenever the vehicle is parked in a parking space for a person with a disability. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

Agents appointed pursuant to this subsection may not charge a fee for issuing a 21-day parking permit for a person with a disability.
[PL 2011, c. 117, §1 (NEW); PL 2025, c. 316, §3 (REV).]

7. Registration and placard fees. There is no additional registration fee for disability plates or placards.
[PL 2001, c. 361, §11 (AMD).]

8. Violation.
[PL 1997, c. 673, §1 (RP).]

9. Compliance. Any person or organization issued a placard or plates pursuant to former Title 29, section 252 or 252-C must reapply, according to the procedures set forth in this section, by January 1, 2001. In the case of individuals or organizations currently in possession of disability plates or a placard who successfully reapply, the placard or plates expire on the date specified by the placard or plates.
[PL 1997, c. 776, §18 (AMD).]

9-A. Enforcement of disability parking restrictions. A law enforcement officer may enforce disability parking restrictions. The State Police shall enforce disability parking restrictions at service facilities established on the Maine Turnpike and on the interstate highway system in the State. A person commits a traffic infraction if that person parks in a parking space designated and clearly marked for persons with physical disabilities and has not been issued or is not transporting a person who has been issued a disability registration plate or a removable windshield placard pursuant to this section or section 523 or a disability registration plate or placard issued by another state. A person commits a traffic infraction if that person parks in an access aisle, regardless of whether the person has been issued a disability registration plate or removable placard. A person who violates this subsection is subject to a fine of not less than $200 and not more than $500. Testimony under oath with clear photographic evidence from a person with a disability or the driver of a vehicle transporting a person with a disability that a vehicle was parked in violation of this subsection is prima facie evidence of a violation of this subsection. For purposes of this subsection, "person with a disability" has the same meaning as in subsection 1.
[PL 2015, c. 52, §1 (AMD).]

9-B. Registered owner's liability for vehicle illegally parked in disability parking space or access aisle. A person who is a registered owner of a vehicle at the time that vehicle is involved in a violation of subsection 9-A commits a traffic infraction. For purposes of this subsection, "registered owner" includes a person issued a dealer or transporter registration plate.

A. Anyone who observes a violation of subsection 9-A may report the violation to a law enforcement officer. If a report is made, the observer shall report the time and the location of the violation and the registration plate number and a description of the vehicle involved. The officer shall initiate an investigation of the reported violation and, if possible, contact the registered owner of the motor vehicle involved and request that the registered owner supply information identifying the operator. Testimony under oath with clear photographic evidence from a person with a disability or the driver of a vehicle transporting a person with a disability that a vehicle was parked in violation of this subsection is prima facie evidence of a violation of this subsection. For purposes of this paragraph, "person with a disability" has the same meaning as in subsection 1. [PL 2015, c. 52, §2 (AMD).]

B. The investigating officer may cause the registered owner of the vehicle to be served with a summons for a violation of this subsection. [PL 2005, c. 528, §2 (NEW).]

C. Except as provided in paragraph D, it is not a defense to a violation of this subsection that a registered owner was not operating the vehicle at the time of the violation. [PL 2005, c. 528, §2 (NEW).]

D. The following are defenses to a violation of this subsection.

(1) If a person other than the owner is found to be operating the vehicle at the time of the violation and is adjudicated of violating subsection 9-A, then the registered owner may not be found in violation of this subsection.

(2) If the registered owner is a lessor of vehicles and at the time of the violation the vehicle was in the possession of a lessee, and the lessor provides the investigating officer with a copy of the lease agreement containing the information required by section 254, then the lessee and not the lessor may be charged under this subsection.

(3) If the vehicle is operated using a dealer or transporter registration plate and at the time of the violation the vehicle was operated by any person other than the dealer or transporter, and if the dealer or transporter provides the investigating officer with the name and address of the person who had control over the vehicle at the time of the violation, then that person and not the dealer or transporter may be charged under this subsection.

(4) If a report that the vehicle was stolen is given to a law enforcement officer or agency before the violation occurs or within a reasonable time after the violation occurs, then the registered owner may not be charged under this subsection. [PL 2005, c. 528, §2 (NEW).]

E. A person who violates this subsection is subject to a fine of not less than $200 and not more than $500. [PL 2013, c. 381, Pt. C, §2 (AMD).]

[PL 2015, c. 52, §2 (AMD).]

10. Effective date.

[PL 1997, c. 776, §19 (RP).]

11. Violation. A person other than a person with a disability or an organization transporting a person with a disability using a set of disability registration plates or a windshield placard commits a traffic infraction and is subject to a penalty of not less than $100 nor more than $500. The disability registration plates or removable windshield placard may be suspended for improper use. A 2nd or subsequent violation of this subsection is a Class E crime for which the fine under this subsection may be doubled.

[PL 2009, c. 143, §2 (AMD).]

12. Parking without charge. A vehicle that exhibits a permanent placard, a temporary placard or a disability registration plate may park at a parking area that is not a parking facility as defined in Title 30-A, section 5401, subsection 5 without a charge and may park a length of time that does not exceed twice the limit otherwise allowed.

[PL 2019, c. 648, §1 (AMD).]

13. Altering placard. A person who alters or causes to be altered the expiration date of a disability placard issued pursuant to this section commits a traffic infraction and is subject to a penalty of not less than $100 nor more than $500.

[PL 2007, c. 383, §13 (NEW).]

14. Disabled veterans parking. A person qualifying for special designation plates pursuant to section 523, subsection 1 or 2 may request disabled veterans parking registration plates.

Disabled veterans parking registration plates must bear the words "Disabled Veteran," the American flag and the International Symbol of Access in compliance with subsection 2.

[PL 2009, c. 598, §5 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1993, c. 683, §A2 (NEW). PL 1993, c. 683, §B5 (AFF). PL 1995, c. 482, §A4 (RPR). PL 1995, c. 645, §§A4,5 (AMD). PL 1997, c. 673, §§1,2 (AMD). PL 1997, c. 776, §§18,19 (AMD). PL 1999, c. 470, §6 (AMD). PL 1999, c. 544, §1 (AMD). PL 2001, c. 35, §§1-3 (AMD). PL 2001, c. 77, §1 (AMD). PL 2001, c. 151, §1 (AMD). PL 2001, c. 361, §11 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 431, §§1-4 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 633, §2 (AMD). PL 2005, c. 433, §7 (AMD). PL 2005, c. 433, §28 (AFF). PL 2005, c. 528, §§1,2 (AMD). PL 2007, c. 383, §13 (AMD). PL 2007, c. 703, §§12-14 (AMD). PL 2009, c. 143, §§1, 2 (AMD). PL 2009, c. 598, §5 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 23, §1 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 117, §1 (AMD). PL 2013, c. 381, Pt. C, §§1, 2 (AMD). PL 2013, c. 496, §10 (AMD). PL 2015, c. 52, §§1, 2 (AMD). PL 2015, c. 473, §10 (AMD). PL 2019, c. 648, §1 (AMD). PL 2021, c. 533, §1 (AMD). PL 2025, c. 316, §3 (REV).

§522. Deaf, hard-of-hearing and late-deafened persons

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1993, c. 683, §A2 (NEW). PL 1993, c. 683, §B5 (AFF). PL 1995, c. 65, §§A92,93 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 65, §§A153,C15 (AFF). PL 2001, c. 361, §12 (AMD). PL 2009, c. 174, §22 (AMD). PL 2021, c. 216, §14 (RP).

§523. Certain veterans

1. Amputee or blind veterans. On application to the Secretary of State for registration of any motor vehicle of any amputee or blind veteran who has received an automobile from the United States Government under authority of 38 United States Code, Sections 3901, et seq. or any amputee or blind veteran receiving compensation from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs or any branch of the United States Armed Forces for service-connected disability who has a specially designed motor vehicle, that veteran is entitled to have that automobile duly registered and a registration certificate delivered to the veteran without the requirement of the payment of any fee.

Any veteran who has lost both legs or the use of both legs and who has registered a motor vehicle without the payment of a fee as provided in this section upon certification by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs or appropriate branch of the United States Armed Forces may upon request be issued special designating plates. Those designating plates must be issued by the Secretary of State and must bear the words "Disabled Veteran."
[PL 2023, c. 634, §7 (AMD).]

2. Disabled veterans; special free license plates. The Secretary of State, on application and upon evidence of payment of the excise tax required by Title 36, section 1482 or upon evidence of exemption from excise tax under Title 36, section 1483, subsection 12, shall issue, with no annual registration fee, a registration certificate and upon request special designating plates to be used in lieu of regular registration plates for a vehicle with a registered gross weight of not more than 26,000 pounds to any 100% disabled veteran when that application is accompanied by certification from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs or any branch of the United States Armed Forces as to the veteran's permanent disability and receipt of 100% service-connected benefits. Upon request a disability placard may be issued at no fee. The Secretary of State may issue a registration certificate and special designating plates for no more than 3 vehicles owned by a veteran eligible under this subsection.

These special designating plates must bear the words "Disabled Veteran," which indicate that the vehicle is owned by a disabled veteran.
[PL 2025, c. 152, §1 (AMD).]

2-A. Disabled veterans motorcycle license plates. The Secretary of State shall issue a registration certificate and special designating plate for a motorcycle to be used in lieu of a registration plate issued in subsection 2 to any 100% disabled veteran if an applicant submits the following together with an application:

A. Evidence of payment of the excise tax required by Title 36, section 1482; and [PL 1999, c. 734, §2 (NEW).]

B. Certification from the United States Veterans Administration or any branch of the United States Armed Forces as to the veteran's permanent disability and receipt of 100% service-connected benefits. [PL 1999, c. 734, §2 (NEW).]

Notwithstanding section 468, the Secretary of State may issue fewer than 2,000 of the plates authorized by this subsection, and this plate does not require a sponsor. These special designating plates must bear the word "Veteran."
[PL 1999, c. 734, §2 (NEW).]

3. Special veterans registration plates. The Secretary of State, on application and evidence of payment of the excise tax required by Title 36, section 1482 and the registration fee required by section 501 or by section 504, subsection 1 for a vehicle with a registered gross weight over 10,000 pounds, shall issue a registration certificate and a set of special veterans registration plates to be used in lieu of regular registration plates for a vehicle with a registered gross weight of not more than 26,000 pounds to any person who has served in the United States Armed Forces and who has been honorably discharged, any person who has served a minimum of 20 years in the National Guard and has been honorably discharged or to a person who has served in the United States Armed Forces for at least 3 years and continues to serve. If a person who qualifies for a special veterans registration plate under this subsection is a primary driver of any vehicle, the Secretary of State may issue in accordance with this section a set of special veterans registration plates for each vehicle.

Each application must be accompanied by the applicant's Armed Forces Report of Transfer or Discharge, DD Form 214, certification from the United States Veterans Administration or the appropriate branch of the United States Armed Forces verifying the applicant's military service and honorable discharge, a letter from the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, Maine Bureau of Veterans' Services verifying active duty military service and length of service or a Form 22 from the United States Department of Defense, National Guard Bureau indicating a minimum of 20 years of service.

The Secretary of State shall recall a special veterans registration plate of a recipient who has been less than honorably discharged from the United States Armed Forces.

All surplus revenue collected for issuance of the special veterans registration plates is retained by the Secretary of State to maintain and support this program.

The surviving spouse of a special veterans registration plate recipient issued plates in accordance with this subsection may retain and display the special veterans registration plates as long as the surviving spouse remains unmarried. Upon remarriage, the surviving spouse may not use the special veterans registration plates on a motor vehicle, but may retain them as a keepsake. Upon the death of the surviving spouse, the family may retain the special veterans registration plates, but may not use them on a motor vehicle.

The Secretary of State may issue a special disability registration plate for veterans in accordance with section 521, subsections 1, 5, 7 and 9. The special disability registration plate for veterans must bear the International Symbol of Access.

The Secretary of State may issue a set of special veterans registration plates when the qualifying veteran is the primary driver of a company-owned vehicle if:

A. The company is owned solely by a veteran who qualifies for a veteran plate under this section; [PL 2007, c. 383, §15 (NEW).]

B. The vehicle is leased by a veteran who qualifies for the veteran plate under this subsection; or [PL 2007, c. 383, §15 (NEW).]

C. The vehicle is leased by the employer of a veteran who qualifies for the veteran plate and the employer has assigned the vehicle exclusively to the veteran. The employer must attest in writing that the veteran will have exclusive use of the vehicle and agrees to the display of the special veterans registration plate. [PL 2023, c. 646, Pt. A, §33 (AMD).]

[PL 2023, c. 646, Pt. A, §33 (AMD).]

3-A. Motorcycle plates; veterans. In addition to any plate issued pursuant to subsection 3, the Secretary of State, on application and evidence of payment of the excise tax required by Title 36, section 1482 and the registration fee required by section 515, subsection 1, shall issue a registration certificate and a special veterans registration plate for any designated motorcycles owned or controlled by a person who has served in the United States Armed Forces and who has been honorably discharged, a person who has served a minimum of 20 years in the National Guard and has been honorably discharged or to a person who has served in the United States Armed Forces for at least 3 years and continues to serve.

Each application must be accompanied by the applicant's Armed Forces Report of Transfer or Discharge, DD Form 214, certification from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs or the appropriate branch of the United States Armed Forces verifying the applicant's military service and honorable discharge, a letter from the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, Maine Bureau of Veterans' Services verifying active duty military service and length of service or a Form 22 from the United States Department of Defense, National Guard Bureau indicating a minimum of 20 years of service.

The Secretary of State shall recall a special veterans registration plate of a recipient who has been less than honorably discharged from the United States Armed Forces.

All surplus revenue collected for issuance of the special veterans registration plates is retained by the Secretary of State to maintain and support this program.

Upon request the Secretary of State shall issue special veterans registration plates for a motorcycle that are also vanity plates. These plates are issued in accordance with this section and section 453. Vanity plates issued under this subsection may not duplicate vanity plates issued in another class of plate.

The surviving spouse of a recipient of a special veterans registration plate issued in accordance with this subsection may retain and use the plate or plates as long as the surviving spouse remains unmarried. Upon remarriage, the surviving spouse may not use the plate or plates, but may retain them. Upon the death of the surviving spouse, the family may retain the plate or plates, but may not use them.

The Secretary of State may not issue special commemorative decals under subsection 5 or 6 for use on special veterans registration plates for a motorcycle.

[PL 2023, c. 257, §10 (AMD).]

4. Veterans vanity plates. Upon request and as provided by section 453, the Secretary of State shall issue veterans registration plates that are also vanity plates. Veterans registration vanity plates are issued in accordance with this section and section 453.

[PL 2013, c. 496, §11 (AMD).]

5. Special commemorative decals for medals, badges or ribbons awarded. The Secretary of State may issue special commemorative decals for use with special veterans registration plates to any person who served in the uniformed services of the United States, was honorably discharged and was awarded a medal, badge or ribbon described in paragraphs A to CC when that person's application is accompanied by the appropriate military certification verifying that the medal, badge or ribbon was awarded to the applicant. One set of commemorative decals may be issued for each set of special veterans registration plates issued under this section. One set of 2 commemorative decals must be displayed on the front and back plates. The fee for a set of commemorative decals may not exceed $5.

Special commemorative decals may be issued to applicants awarded the following medals, badges or ribbons:

A. Distinguished Service Cross; [PL 2001, c. 453, §2 (NEW); PL 2001, c. 453, §4 (AFF).]

B. Navy Cross; [PL 2001, c. 453, §2 (NEW); PL 2001, c. 453, §4 (AFF).]

C. Air Force Cross; [PL 2001, c. 453, §2 (NEW); PL 2001, c. 453, §4 (AFF).]

D. Silver Star; [PL 2001, c. 453, §2 (NEW); PL 2001, c. 453, §4 (AFF).]

E. Distinguished Flying Cross; [PL 2001, c. 453, §2 (NEW); PL 2001, c. 453, §4 (AFF).]

F. Bronze Star; [PL 2001, c. 453, §2 (NEW); PL 2001, c. 453, §4 (AFF).]

G. Soldier's Medal; [PL 2001, c. 453, §2 (NEW); PL 2001, c. 453, §4 (AFF).]

H. Navy or Marine Corps Medal; [PL 2001, c. 453, §2 (NEW); PL 2001, c. 453, §4 (AFF).]

I. Airman's Medal; [PL 2001, c. 453, §2 (NEW); PL 2001, c. 453, §4 (AFF).]

J. Coast Guard Medal; [PL 2001, c. 453, §2 (NEW); PL 2001, c. 453, §4 (AFF).]

K. Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal; [PL 2001, c. 453, §2 (NEW); PL 2001, c. 453, §4 (AFF).]

L. European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal; [PL 2001, c. 453, §2 (NEW); PL 2001, c. 453, §4 (AFF).]

M. Korean Service Medal; [PL 2001, c. 453, §2 (NEW); PL 2001, c. 453, §4 (AFF).]

N. Vietnam Service Medal; [PL 2001, c. 453, §2 (NEW); PL 2001, c. 453, §4 (AFF).]

O. Southwest Asia Service Medal; [PL 2001, c. 453, §2 (NEW); PL 2001, c. 453, §4 (AFF).]

P. Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal; [PL 2005, c. 420, §1 (AMD); PL 2005, c. 433, §8 (AMD); PL 2005, c. 433, §28 (AFF).]

Q. Kosovo Service Medal; [PL 2005, c. 683, Pt. A, §47 (RPR).]

R. Korea Defense Service Medal; [PL 2005, c. 683, Pt. A, §48 (RPR).]

S. Global War on Terrorism Medal; [PL 2005, c. 433, §9 (NEW); PL 2005, c. 433, §28 (AFF).]

T. Iraq Campaign Medal; [PL 2009, c. 437, §1 (AMD).]

U. Afghanistan Campaign Medal; [PL 2009, c. 437, §1 (AMD).]

V. United States Army Combat Infantry Badge; [PL 2009, c. 437, §1 (NEW).]

W. United States Army Combat Medic Badge; [PL 2009, c. 437, §1 (NEW).]

X. United States Army Combat Action Badge; [PL 2009, c. 437, §1 (NEW).]

Y. United States Navy, Marine Corps or Coast Guard Combat Action Ribbon; [PL 2011, c. 22, §1 (AMD).]

Z. United States Air Force Combat Action Medal; [PL 2017, c. 8, §1 (AMD).]

AA. National Emergency Service Medal; [PL 2025, c. 382, §1 (AMD).]

BB. Air Medal; and [PL 2025, c. 382, §1 (AMD).]

CC. Inherent Resolve Campaign Medal. [PL 2025, c. 382, §1 (NEW).]
[PL 2025, c. 382, §1 (AMD).]

6. Special commemorative decals for branches of armed forces. The Secretary of State may issue special commemorative decals for use with special veterans registration plates to any person who served in the uniformed services of the United States and was honorably discharged when that person's application is accompanied by the appropriate military certification verifying the applicant's service. One set of commemorative decals may be issued for each set of special veterans registration plates

issued under this section. One set of 2 commemorative decals must be displayed on the front and back plate. The fee for a set of commemorative decals may not exceed $5.

Special commemorative decals may be issued to applicants who served in the:

A. United States Army; [PL 2001, c. 453, §2 (NEW); PL 2001, c. 453, §4 (AFF).]

B. United States Air Force; [PL 2001, c. 453, §2 (NEW); PL 2001, c. 453, §4 (AFF).]

C. United States Navy; [PL 2001, c. 453, §2 (NEW); PL 2001, c. 453, §4 (AFF).]

D. United States Marine Corps; [PL 2025, c. 382, §2 (AMD).]

E. United States Coast Guard; [PL 2025, c. 382, §2 (AMD).]

F. United States Space Force; [PL 2025, c. 382, §2 (NEW).]

G. United States Public Health Service Commissioned Corps; and [PL 2025, c. 382, §2 (NEW).]

H. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps. [PL 2025, c. 382, §2 (NEW).]

[PL 2025, c. 382, §2 (AMD).]

7. Moratorium on decals for use with special veterans registration plates. [PL 2019, c. 397, §11 (RP).]

8. Wabanaki decal. The Secretary of State may issue a set of 2 Wabanaki decals to a person who has or receives a special veterans registration plate if the Secretary of State receives an application and a statement signed by a tribal official from a federally recognized tribe within the Wabanaki Confederacy proving the applicant's membership in the tribe. One set of 2 Wabanaki decals must be displayed on the front and back plates. The fee for a set of Wabanaki decals may not exceed $5. [PL 2013, c. 586, Pt. I, §2 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1993, c. 683, §A2 (NEW). PL 1993, c. 683, §B5 (AFF). PL 1995, c. 645, §B10 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 645, §B24 (AFF). PL 1997, c. 69, §1 (AMD). PL 1999, c. 734, §2 (AMD). PL 1999, c. 751, §1 (AMD). PL 2001, c. 444, §1 (AMD). PL 2001, c. 453, §§1,2 (AMD). PL 2001, c. 453, §4 (AFF). PL 2001, c. 671, §10 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 652, §B4 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 652, §B8 (AFF). PL 2005, c. 420, §§1,2 (AMD). PL 2005, c. 433, §§8,9 (AMD). PL 2005, c. 433, §28 (AFF). PL 2005, c. 573, §3 (AMD). PL 2005, c. 683, §§A47,48 (AMD). PL 2007, c. 376, §1 (AMD). PL 2007, c. 383, §§14, 15 (AMD). PL 2009, c. 80, §§1, 2 (AMD). PL 2009, c. 437, §§1, 2 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 22, §§1, 2 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 356, §12 (AMD). PL 2013, c. 496, §11 (AMD). PL 2013, c. 586, Pt. I, §§1, 2 (AMD). PL 2017, c. 8, §1 (AMD). PL 2017, c. 43, §§1, 2 (AMD). PL 2019, c. 377, §6 (REV). PL 2019, c. 397, §11 (AMD). PL 2023, c. 85, §§1, 2 (AMD). PL 2023, c. 257, §§9, 10 (AMD). PL 2023, c. 634, §§7, 8 (AMD). PL 2023, c. 646, Pt. A, §33 (AMD). PL 2025, c. 152, §1 (AMD). PL 2025, c. 382, §§1, 2 (AMD).

§524. Other special veterans registration plates

1. United States Medal of Honor 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, shall issue, at no fee, a registration certificate and set of special designating plates, to be used in lieu of regular registration plates, to any Maine resident who has been awarded the Medal of Honor by the Congress of the United States when the application is accompanied by a copy of the military orders awarding the Medal of Honor.

These special designating plates must be of a design as determined by the Secretary of State.

The Secretary of State may issue Medal of Honor plates for display only on an automobile or truck registered for not more than 10,000 pounds.

[PL 2011, c. 356, §13 (AMD).]

2. Former prisoners of war; special license plates. The Secretary of State, on application and upon evidence of payment of the excise tax required by Title 36, section 1482, shall issue, at no fee, a registration certificate and set of special designating plates to be used in lieu of regular registration plates to any civilian citizen of the United States who was interned as a prisoner of war and to any person who served in the United States Armed Forces and who was a prisoner of war at any time during tenure of service, or the surviving spouse of a former prisoner of war who is deceased, when that application is accompanied by a copy of the appropriate military form or other official form issued by the Federal Government certifying that the person is a former prisoner of war. This special license plate is issued specifically to former prisoners of war and their spouses and the privilege of using the special plate is transferable only on the death of the former prisoner of war to the former prisoner's spouse. Upon the death of the former prisoner of war, the surviving spouse may retain and display the special license plate. Upon remarriage, the surviving spouse may not use the special license plate on a motor vehicle, but may retain it. Upon the death of the surviving spouse, the family may retain the special license plate, but not use it on a motor vehicle.

These special designating plates must be of a design as determined by the Secretary of State that is unique and not duplicated by any other design.

The Secretary of State may issue prisoner of war plates for display only on an automobile or truck registered for not more than 10,000 pounds.
[PL 2011, c. 356, §13 (AMD).]

3. Pearl Harbor survivors; special license plates. The Secretary of State, on application and upon evidence of payment of the excise tax required by Title 36, section 1482, shall issue, at no fee, a registration certificate and set of special designating plates to be used in lieu of regular registration plates to any person who served in the United States Armed Forces and who was stationed at Pearl Harbor, Oahu, Hawaii during the attack by Japanese forces on December 7, 1941, when that application is accompanied by appropriate military certification verifying the applicant's service at Pearl Harbor during the attack. This special license plate is issued specifically to Pearl Harbor survivors and the privilege of using the special plate is not transferable.

These special designating plates must be of a design as determined by the Secretary of State.

The Secretary of State may issue Pearl Harbor survivor plates for display only on an automobile or truck registered for not more than 10,000 pounds.
[PL 2011, c. 356, §13 (AMD).]

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, shall issue, at no fee, 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.

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 issue Purple Heart plates for display only on an automobile or truck registered for not more than 10,000 pounds. 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 use 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. 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 administrative fee for vanity plates required in section 453 is credited to the Highway Fund.

A Purple Heart recipient or the surviving spouse of 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 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.
[PL 2021, c. 216, §15 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1993, c. 683, §A2 (NEW). PL 1993, c. 683, §B5 (AFF). PL 1995, c. 190, §1 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 645, §B11 (AMD). PL 1997, c. 31, §1 (AMD). PL 2001, c. 155, §2 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 67, §2 (AMD). PL 2007, c. 383, §16 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 356, §13 (AMD). PL 2021, c. 216, §15 (AMD).

§524-A. Wabanaki registration plates

No later than November 1, 2005, the Secretary of State shall issue Wabanaki registration plates to members of federally recognized tribes in the State pursuant to this section. [PL 2003, c. 683, §1 (NEW).]

1. Wabanaki registration plates. The Secretary of State, upon receiving an application and evidence of payment of the registration fee required by section 501, the excise tax required by Title 36, section 1482 and a statement signed by a tribal official from a federally recognized tribe within the Wabanaki Confederacy proving the applicant's membership in the tribe, shall issue a registration certificate and a set of Wabanaki registration plates to be used in lieu of regular registration plates. These plates must bear identification numbers and letters and the word "Wabanaki."
[PL 2003, c. 683, §1 (NEW).]

2. Reimbursement for production and issuance costs for plates. The Wabanaki Confederacy shall pay all costs associated with the initial production and issuance of the plates and shall provide payment to the Secretary of State for the costs to replenish the Wabanaki plate inventory.
[PL 2003, c. 683, §1 (NEW).]

3. Design. The Secretary of State, in consultation with the Wabanaki Confederacy, shall determine a design for the Wabanaki registration plates. The joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over transportation matters shall review the final design prior to manufacture of the plates. Upon request, the Secretary of State shall issue Wabanaki plates that are also vanity plates. Wabanaki plates are issued in accordance with the provisions of this section and section 453.
[PL 2003, c. 683, §1 (NEW).]

4. Renewal fee. The renewal fee for the Wabanaki plate is the regular motor vehicle registration fee required by section 501.
[PL 2003, c. 683, §1 (NEW).]

5. Duplicate plates. The Secretary of State shall issue Wabanaki plates in a 3-number and 3-letter combination sequence. Vanity plates may not duplicate vanity plates issued in another class of plate.
[PL 2003, c. 683, §1 (NEW).]

6. Weight limit. A Wabanaki plate may be issued for a motor vehicle that does not exceed 10,000 pounds. A motor vehicle that exceeds 6,000 pounds is subject to the fees in section 504.

[PL 2007, c. 383, §17 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 683, §1 (NEW). PL 2007, c. 383, §17 (AMD).

§524-B. Gold star family registration plates

1. Eligibility. Notwithstanding the requirements in section 468-A, the Secretary of State, upon application and upon evidence of payment of the excise tax required by Title 36, section 1482, shall issue a registration certificate and a set of gold star family registration plates, to be used in lieu of regular registration plates, to:

A. A person who is eligible to receive a gold star lapel button under 10 United States Code, Section 1126 (2010); [PL 2015, c. 17, §1 (AMD); PL 2015, c. 17, §3 (AFF).]

B. A grandparent of a member of the United States Armed Forces, if that member dies after March 28, 1973 as a result of:

(1) An international terrorist attack against the United States or a foreign nation friendly to the United States, recognized as such an attack by the United States Secretary of Defense; or

(2) Military operations while serving outside the United States, including the commonwealths, territories and possessions of the United States, as a part of a peacekeeping force; [PL 2015, c. 17, §1 (AMD); PL 2015, c. 17, §3 (AFF).]

C. A person who is not eligible to receive a gold star lapel button under 10 United States Code, Section 1126 (2010) but who is eligible for a lapel button for next of kin of deceased personnel under 32 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 578.63 (2006); and [PL 2015, c. 17, §1 (NEW); PL 2015, c. 17, §3 (AFF).]

D. A grandparent of a member of the United States Armed Forces, if that member dies while serving on active duty or while assigned in the reserve components of the United States Armed Forces or Army National Guard unit in a drill status. [PL 2015, c. 17, §1 (NEW); PL 2015, c. 17, §3 (AFF).]

[PL 2019, c. 390, §2 (AMD).]

2. Application. An application for gold star family registration plates must be accompanied by proof that the applicant is eligible. The Secretary of State, in consultation with the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, shall verify the documentation presented by the applicant. Misrepresentation of documents is in violation of section 2103, subsection 5.

The Secretary of State may issue gold star family registration plates for display only on an automobile or pickup truck. An applicant may be issued gold star family registration plates for no more than one vehicle.

[PL 2015, c. 17, §1 (AMD); PL 2015, c. 17, §3 (AFF).]

3. Design. The Secretary of State shall determine the design of the gold star family registration plate.

A person who does not operate a motor vehicle or register a motor vehicle and who otherwise qualifies for the issuance of gold star family registration plates may apply to the Secretary of State for a special single plate recognizing that award. The Secretary of State shall design and identify these special single plates for recognition purposes only. Special single plates may not be attached to a motor vehicle. Only one special single plate may be issued to each recipient at no fee.

[PL 2011, c. 246, §1 (NEW).]

4. Gold star family vanity plates. Upon request and as provided by section 453, the Secretary of State shall issue gold star family registration plates that are also vanity plates. Gold star family vanity registration plates are issued in accordance with this section and section 453.

[PL 2015, c. 17, §2 (NEW).]

The Secretary of State shall begin issuing gold star family registration plates in accordance with this section no later than October 1, 2011. [PL 2011, c. 246, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2011, c. 246, §1 (NEW). PL 2015, c. 17, §§1, 2 (AMD). PL 2015, c. 17, §3 (AFF). PL 2019, c. 390, §2 (AMD).

§525. Fuel tax licensing and reporting

1. Fuel use reporting account. A person operating a vehicle using fuel other than gasoline must establish an account for fuel use reporting if that vehicle:

A. Is registered for a gross vehicle weight in excess of 26,000 pounds; [PL 1995, c. 482, Pt. B, §8 (AMD); PL 1995, c. 482, Pt. B, §22 (AFF).]

B. Is designed to carry 20 or more passengers; [PL 1995, c. 482, Pt. B, §8 (AMD); PL 1995, c. 482, Pt. B, §22 (AFF).]

C. Is used in combination with another vehicle or vehicles and the combined gross weight is in excess of 26,000 pounds; or [PL 1995, c. 482, Pt. B, §9 (NEW); PL 1995, c. 482, Pt. B, §22 (AFF).]

D. Has 3 or more axles on the power unit regardless of gross weight. [PL 1995, c. 482, Pt. B, §9 (NEW); PL 1995, c. 482, Pt. B, §22 (AFF).]

[PL 1995, c. 482, Pt. B, §§8, 9 (AMD); PL 1995, c. 482, Pt. B, §22 (AFF).]

2. Exceptions. A person operating a vehicle on a public way, subject to Title 36, chapter 459 shall obtain a fuel use identification decal for that vehicle, except for:

A. A vehicle owned and operated by government agencies; [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

B. A vehicle legally operating with dealer registration plates; [PL 1995, c. 482, Pt. B, §10 (AMD); PL 1995, c. 482, Pt. B, §22 (AFF).]

C. A recreational vehicle; [PL 1995, c. 482, Pt. B, §10 (AMD); PL 1995, c. 482, Pt. B, §22 (AFF).]

D. An authorized emergency vehicle registered in another jurisdiction and operating in response to a declared emergency; or [PL 1995, c. 482, Pt. B, §10 (AMD); PL 1995, c. 482, Pt. B, §22 (AFF).]

E. A vehicle legally licensed for fuel use reporting under the International Fuel Tax Agreement. [PL 1995, c. 482, Pt. B, §11 (NEW); PL 1995, c. 482, Pt. B, §22 (AFF).]

[PL 2007, c. 438, §1 (AMD).]

3. Interstate fleets.

[PL 1995, c. 482, Pt. B, §12 (RP); PL 1995, c. 482, Pt. B, §22 (AFF).]

4. Exception. A farm vehicle or farm truck subject to limited inspection under section 1752, subsections 2 and 4 is not required to have a fuel use identification decal.

[PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

5. Fee. The decal fee for each vehicle is $5.

[PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

6. Issuance; display; expiration. The Secretary of State shall issue interstate and intrastate fuel use identification decals and shall specify the location on the exterior of a vehicle to which a decal must be affixed permanently. A decal must be visible and legible.

A. A fuel use identification decal issued pursuant to the International Fuel Tax Agreement expires on December 31st. A fuel use identification decal issued for intrastate operation expires on June 30th. [PL 1997, c. 776, §20 (AMD).]

B. A cab card must be carried in the vehicle at all times. For the purposes of this paragraph, "cab card" means identification issued or approved by the Secretary of State that contains the legal name and address of the person who has established a fuel use reporting account for the vehicle. With the approval of the Secretary of State, the cab card may be carried and presented in an electronic format. [PL 2017, c. 229, §12 (AMD).]

C. A person transferring ownership of a vehicle bearing a valid fuel use identification decal must disfigure the decal. [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

D. A person acquiring a vehicle with an unexpired fuel use identification decal may not operate that vehicle without a valid trip permit or a fuel use identification decal issued to that person. [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

[PL 2017, c. 229, §12 (AMD).]

7. Trip permits. In lieu of fuel tax licensing and reporting, the Secretary of State may issue a trip permit that authorizes for a period not to exceed 3 consecutive days a specific vehicle to be operated without a fuel use identification decal. The permit must accompany the vehicle at all times. The fee for a permit is $50.

[PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

8. Enforcement. A state police officer or any member of the Department of Public Safety designated by the Commissioner of Public Safety may enforce this section.

A person in violation of the requirements for reporting fuel use taxes under Title 36 may be required to fully comply before being allowed to proceed.

[PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

9. Violation.

[PL 2003, c. 688, Pt. A, §31 (RP); PL 2003, c. 688, Pt. A, §33 (AFF).]

9-A. Violation. The following penalties apply to violations of this section.

A. Except as provided in paragraph B, a person who violates this section commits a traffic infraction for which a fine of no more than $250 may be imposed for the first offense and a fine of no more than $500 may be imposed for each subsequent offense. [PL 2017, c. 165, §3 (AMD).]

B. A person who displays or causes or permits to be displayed a false decal or permit or a decal or permit issued to another person commits a Class D crime. Violation of this paragraph is a strict liability crime as defined in Title 17-A, section 34, subsection 4-A for which the court shall impose a fine of at least $250, which may not be suspended. [PL 2017, c. 165, §3 (AMD).]

An owner or operator stopped for violating this section and against whom enforcement action has been taken does not commit a subsequent violation of this section involving the same vehicle until after the close of business on the next business day following the date of the violation.

[PL 2017, c. 165, §3 (AMD).]

10. Suspension. If a person fails to file a fuel tax report or to pay any taxes, interest, penalties or audit assessment as required pursuant to Title 36, chapter 459 or any rule adopted pursuant to this section, the Secretary of State shall suspend the person's fuel tax license, all fuel decals issued to the person and that person's privilege to operate as a motor carrier. The operation of a vehicle after suspension under this section is a traffic infraction. A suspension or revocation issued by another jurisdiction pursuant to the International Fuel Tax Agreement is a suspension in this State. In order to be reinstated, the person must file all delinquent tax returns and pay all assessments, interest and

penalties. In addition, the person must pay a $50 reinstatement fee pursuant to section 2486, subsection 1.
[PL 2017, c. 229, §13 (AMD).]

11. Cooperation. The State Tax Assessor, the Department of Public Safety and the Secretary of State shall cooperate in the issuance of decals, licenses and permits, the processing of tax returns, enforcement of this section and to ensure that timely information is readily available to all enforcement personnel of the status of those in noncompliance with the fuel use tax laws and motor vehicle registration laws.

Subject to the provisions of Title 36, the State Tax Assessor may by mutual agreement with the Secretary of State delegate to the Secretary of State responsibility for the audit and processing of motor carrier fuel tax returns, motor carrier fuel tax assessment and collection and compliance with the administrative requirements of the International Fuel Tax Agreement.
[PL 2011, c. 644, §1 (AMD).]

12. Funds. All fees, fines, fuel tax revenue and forfeitures accrue to the Highway Fund.
[PL 1995, c. 645, Pt. B, §12 (AMD); PL 1995, c. 645, Pt. B, §24 (AFF).]

13. Rules. The Secretary of State in consultation with the State Tax Assessor and the Commissioner of Public Safety may adopt rules to implement this section and to provide for participation in the International Fuel Tax Agreement.
[PL 1995, c. 482, Pt. B, §14 (NEW); PL 1995, c. 482, Pt. B, §22 (AFF).]

14. Venue. A violation of this section is deemed to have been committed in part at the principal office of the Secretary of State. Prosecution under this section may be in the county where the act to which the proceeding relates occurred or in Kennebec County.
[PL 2005, c. 622, §1 (NEW).]

15. Pilot projects. Notwithstanding any provision of this section, the Secretary of State, in consultation with the State Tax Assessor and the Commissioner of Public Safety, may participate in a pilot project relative to the distribution and display of International Fuel Tax Agreement credentials and may modify or waive requirements for the display of fuel decals for approved licensees.
[PL 2017, c. 229, §14 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1993, c. 683, §A2 (NEW). PL 1993, c. 683, §B5 (AFF). PL 1995, c. 482, §§B8-14 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 482, §B22 (AFF). PL 1995, c. 645, §B12 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 645, §B24 (AFF). PL 1997, c. 776, §§20,21 (AMD). PL 1999, c. 414, §§1,2 (AMD). PL 2001, c. 361, §13 (AMD). PL 2001, c. 463, §1 (AMD). PL 2001, c. 463, §7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 434, §10 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 434, §37 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 452, §Q7 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 452, §X2 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 688, §§A31,32 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 688, §A33 (AFF). PL 2005, c. 622, §1 (AMD). PL 2007, c. 438, §§1,2 (AMD). PL 2009, c. 213, Pt. YYYY, §1 (AMD). PL 2009, c. 598, §6 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 644, §1 (AMD). PL 2017, c. 165, §3 (AMD). PL 2017, c. 229, §§12-14 (AMD).

§526. Surcharge on certain registrations

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1999, c. 473, §J1 (NEW). PL 1999, c. 790, §C18 (RP). PL 1999, c. 790, §C19 (AFF).

ARTICLE 5

INTERNATIONAL REGISTRATION PLAN

§531. Application of the International Registration Plan; apportioned registrations

The Secretary of State shall implement the International Registration Plan, referred to in this article as the "plan," in accordance with this section. [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

1. Registration year. Fleets must be apportioned under the plan on a staggered basis. The registrant shall elect a common registration expiration date for all apportioned vehicles in the fleet. For purposes of this section, "fleet" means one or more vehicles registered to the same person and sharing a common registration expiration date and a common mileage report.
[PL 2001, c. 361, §14 (AMD); PL 2001, c. 361, §38 (AFF).]

2. Application of plan. The plan agreement prevails if in conflict with other laws or rules regarding registration of vehicles.
[PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

3. Rulemaking. The Secretary of State shall adopt rules to carry out provisions of the plan.
[PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

4. Registration transition. The registration of motor vehicles that are to be registered under the plan may be prorated on a monthly basis. Prorated registrations may be issued for any number of months necessary to provide for the consolidation of fleets of vehicles under a single expiration date.
[PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

5. Registration of fleet operated by nonresident owner. The Secretary of State may provide for the registration of a fleet of vehicles operated by a nonresident owner on an apportionment or allocation basis when those vehicles are regularly operated between points outside the State to points in the State.
[PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

6. Excise tax on commercial vehicles operated by nonresident owners. Nonresident owners of motor vehicles paying an apportioned registration fee to the State through the International Registration Plan shall pay to the Secretary of State an apportioned excise tax determined by multiplying the apportioned mileage percentage by the purchase price of the vehicle and by the appropriate mill rate for the model year as determined in Title 36, section 1482, subsection 1, paragraph C.
[PL 1995, c. 440, §1 (NEW); PL 1995, c. 440, §5 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1993, c. 683, §A2 (NEW). PL 1993, c. 683, §B5 (AFF). PL 1995, c. 440, §1 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 440, §5 (AFF). PL 2001, c. 361, §14 (AMD). PL 2001, c. 361, §38 (AFF).

§532. Vehicles registered pursuant to the plan

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Title, the following provisions apply to vehicles required to be registered pursuant to the plan. [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

1. Cab cards. For each vehicle base registered in this State under the plan, there is a fee of $5 for each original cab card or replacement cab card.
[PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

2. Temporary registration. The Secretary of State may issue a temporary registration certificate for a vehicle for which an application for registration has been made. Temporary registrations may be issued for periods not to exceed 45 days. Only one temporary registration may be issued per vehicle per year.
[PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

3. Trip permits. The Secretary of State may issue 72-hour trip permits for vehicles required to be registered in the plan that have not been apportioned with this State. The fee for each trip permit is $25 per vehicle. Trip permits provide all the privileges of the plan.
[PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

4. Display of registration plate. Vehicles registered in the plan for the first time may be operated without displaying a registration plate if the vehicle has been issued a valid temporary registration by the base jurisdiction.
[PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

5. Facsimile credentials. The Secretary of State may issue facsimile credentials identifying specific vehicles for registration purposes. Temporary facsimile credentials issued by another jurisdiction pursuant to the plan may be accepted as proof that a vehicle is legally registered.
[PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

6. Unladen weight permits. The Secretary of State may issue unladen weight permits for motor vehicles based in this State or last registered in this State and otherwise required to be registered in the plan. An unladen weight permit allows a motor vehicle to be operated without a load in a plan jurisdiction without an apportioned registration. The fee for an unladen weight permit is $25. The permit is valid for 30 days. The Secretary of State may require any information that the Secretary of State considers necessary.
[PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

7. Refunds. The Secretary of State may issue a refund of registration fees paid for operating in this State when the Secretary of State determines that a registrant was assessed too great a registration fee. The Secretary of State may not refund a registration fee collected for another jurisdiction, but may assist a motor carrier based in this State in obtaining refunds from other member jurisdictions. The Secretary of State is not required to refund an amount of less than $5.
[PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

8. Presentation of credentials. Upon request of any law enforcement officer, an operator of a motor vehicle registered pursuant to the plan must present temporary or permanent credentials for inspection. The credentials must be a legible original, legible copy or legible electronic image in compliance with the provisions of the plan governing credentials for apportioned registrations under the plan.
[PL 2019, c. 397, §12 (AMD).]

9. Penalty. The following penalties apply to violations of this section.

A. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this Title, a person who fails to comply with the registration requirements of the plan commits a traffic infraction. The minimum fine for this violation is $500. The Secretary of State shall notify the registrant's base jurisdiction of the violation. [PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. Q, §8 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. X, §2 (AFF).]

B. A person who presents altered credentials commits a Class E crime. Violation of this paragraph is a strict liability crime as defined in Title 17-A, section 34, subsection 4-A. [PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. Q, §8 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. X, §2 (AFF).]
[PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. Q, §8 (RPR); PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. X, §2 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1993, c. 683, §A2 (NEW). PL 1993, c. 683, §B5 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 452, §Q8 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 452, §X2 (AFF). PL 2019, c. 397, §12 (AMD).

§533. Use of apportioned excise tax

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1995, c. 440, §2 (NEW). PL 1995, c. 440, §5 (AFF). PL 1997, c. 505, §1 (RP).

§533-A. Municipal Excise Tax Reimbursement Fund

1. Fund established. The Municipal Excise Tax Reimbursement Fund, referred to in this section as the "fund," is established as a dedicated, nonlapsing fund.
[PL 1997, c. 505, §2 (NEW).]

2. Deposits. The Secretary of State shall deposit into the fund all revenue derived pursuant to section 531, subsection 6.
[PL 1997, c. 505, §2 (NEW).]

3. Use of the fund. The fund must be used as follows.

A. Between July 1st and October 31st, the Secretary of State shall disburse to a participating municipality a sum equal to the difference in the amount of excise tax that would have been collected by that municipality in the prior fiscal year on each commercial motor vehicle or bus under Title 36, section 1482, subsection 1, paragraph C, subparagraph (3) or (4) using the manufacturer's suggested retail price from the amount of that excise tax actually collected by that municipality in the prior fiscal year based on the actual purchase price. The Secretary of State shall provide supporting documentation to a municipality regarding the disbursement that municipality receives under this section. [PL 2011, c. 646, §1 (AMD).]

B. By December 1st of the fiscal year in which disbursements are made under paragraph A, the Secretary of State shall transfer from the fund to the Highway Fund a sum equal to the difference in the total revenues derived pursuant to section 531, subsection 6 in the prior fiscal year from the total disbursements made under paragraph A in the current fiscal year. [PL 2001, c. 361, §15 (AMD).]
[PL 2011, c. 646, §1 (AMD).]

4. Municipal participation optional. Municipal participation in the reimbursement program under this section is optional. A participating municipality must collect and provide to the Secretary of State any information the Secretary of State requires to calculate reimbursement.
[PL 1997, c. 505, §2 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1997, c. 505, §2 (NEW). PL 2001, c. 361, §15 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 646, §1 (AMD).

SUBCHAPTER 2

MOTOR CARRIER REGISTRATION

§551. Multistate agreement and federal programs

1. Authorization. The Secretary of State, acting with the concurrence of the Commissioner of Transportation and the Commissioner of Public Safety, may enter into a multistate agreement or federal program for the administration of this subchapter. The Secretary of State may participate in the Unified Carrier Registration System created under the federal Unified Carrier Registration Act of 2005 authorized in PL 109-59.
[PL 2005, c. 649, §1 (AMD).]

2. Purpose. It is the purpose of this section to:

A. Promote and encourage the fullest and most efficient use of the highway system by providing for a single point of contact for the administration of multistate and federal programs; [PL 2005, c. 649, §1 (AMD).]

B. Provide for a uniform set of rules among participating states; [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

C. Enable participating states to act cooperatively in the collection of fees; and [PL 2009, c. 598, §7 (AMD).]

D. Establish and maintain the concept of one administrating state for each motor carrier based on the rules established under a multistate agreement or federal program. [PL 2005, c. 649, §1 (AMD).]

[PL 2009, c. 598, §7 (AMD).]

3. Principle. The Legislature, in authorizing the Secretary of State to enter into a multistate agreement or federal program, recognizes that the concept of one administrating state should promote the more efficient use of the highway system while protecting the travelling public. The Legislature further recognizes that a multistate agreement or federal program should reduce the administrative burden for the motor carrier industry by limiting the number of contacts necessary when a motor carrier operates in interstate commerce.

[PL 2005, c. 649, §1 (AMD).]

4. Authorization. The Secretary of State may enter into a multistate agreement or federal program for the administration of this subchapter consistent with the purposes and principles of this section. The Secretary of State may collect and distribute fees for other participating jurisdictions and receive fees from those jurisdictions collected on behalf of this State. The Secretary of State may collect, distribute and receive fees pursuant to the requirements of the federal Unified Carrier Registration Act of 2005 authorized by PL 109-59.

[PL 2005, c. 649, §1 (AMD).]

5. Rules. The Secretary of State, with the concurrence of the Commissioner of Transportation and the Commissioner of Public Safety, may make rules to implement a multistate agreement or federal program entered into under this section.

[PL 2005, c. 649, §1 (AMD).]

6. Penalty.

[PL 2013, c. 530, §1 (RP).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1993, c. 683, §A2 (NEW). PL 1993, c. 683, §B5 (AFF). PL 2005, c. 649, §1 (AMD). PL 2009, c. 598, §§7, 8 (AMD). PL 2013, c. 530, §1 (AMD).

§552. Operating authority license required

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1993, c. 683, §A2 (NEW). PL 1993, c. 683, §B5 (AFF). PL 1995, c. 65, §§A153,C15 (AFF). PL 1995, c. 65, §B6 (AMD). PL 2009, c. 435, §6 (AMD). PL 2009, c. 598, §9 (RP).

§553. Identification device

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1993, c. 683, §A2 (NEW). PL 1993, c. 683, §B5 (AFF). PL 1995, c. 65, §A94 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 65, §§A153,C15 (AFF). PL 2009, c. 435, §7 (RP).

§554. Lapse of license

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1993, c. 683, §A2 (NEW). PL 1993, c. 683, §B5 (AFF). PL 1995, c. 65, §§A153,C15 (AFF). PL 1995, c. 65, §B7 (AMD). PL 2009, c. 435, §8 (RP).

§555. Bureau of State Police; enforcement

1. Rulemaking authority. The Bureau of State Police, in this section referred to as "the bureau," may, in accordance with the Maine Administrative Procedure Act, modify or decline to adopt any of the federal regulations or amendments referenced in this section, adopt rules to ensure proper enforcement of this subchapter and to promote the safety of the operation of motor carriers over the highways. This authority includes the right to make rules related to the length of duty of drivers. [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

2. Adoption of federal regulations. The bureau may adopt a rule to incorporate by reference federal regulations in 49 Code of Federal Regulations, Parts 40, 382, 383, 385, 390, 391, 392, 393, 395 and 396, and appendices, as amended, and may adopt amendments to those federal regulations. The following provisions apply to the adoption of federal regulations under this section.

A. Except as provided in paragraph A-1, the Maine Administrative Procedure Act does not apply to the adoption by reference of federal regulations under this subsection. [PL 2007, c. 505, §1 (AMD).]

A-1. The rule adopted by the bureau under this subsection is a major substantive rule as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A if it:

(1) Adopts by reference any provision of the federal regulations described under this subsection that would substantively change any amendment to the federal regulations adopted by the bureau; or

(2) Adopts an amendment to any federal regulation described under this subsection. [PL 2013, c. 50, §1 (AMD).]

A-2. The bureau may not adopt any rule that exempts motor carriers, vehicles or drivers transporting hazardous materials of a type or quantity that requires the vehicle to be marked or placarded in accordance with 49 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 172 from any federal regulation adopted and incorporated by reference into any rule adopted by the bureau pursuant to this subsection. Notwithstanding paragraph A-1, the Maine Administrative Procedure Act does not apply to the amendment of any rule consistent with the prohibition set forth in this paragraph. [PL 2009, c. 251, §1 (NEW).]

B. [PL 1999, c. 183, §2 (RP).]

C. For the rule adopted under this subsection:

(1) The bureau shall file with the Secretary of State:

(a) A certified copy of the rule;

(b) A published copy of the federal regulation or amendment as printed in the Federal Register; and

(c) Annually, a published copy of the updated volume of the Code of Federal Regulations containing the federal regulation.

The bureau shall make available for inspection at no charge, and for copying at actual cost, a current published copy of the referenced federal regulations. [PL 2013, c. 50, §1 (AMD).]

D. The Secretary of State shall publish, pursuant to Title 5, section 8053, subsection 5, a notice containing the following information:

(1) A statement that the rule has been adopted and its effective date;

(2) A brief description of the substance of the rule and the referenced federal regulation or amendment; and

(3) The addresses at which copies of the rule and the federal regulation or amendment may be obtained. [PL 2005, c. 679, §1 (AMD).]

E. The bureau shall make available for inspection at no charge and for copying at actual cost a current published copy of the referenced federal regulations and amendments. [PL 2025, c. 384, §25 (AMD).]

F. A rule adopted under this section may not take effect until at least 5 days after filing with the Secretary of State, except that, if the bureau finds that immediate adoption of the rule is necessary to avoid an immediate threat to public health, safety or general welfare, the bureau may adopt the rule as an emergency rule in accordance with Title 5, section 8054, and that rule takes effect immediately. [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

[PL 2025, c. 384, §25 (AMD).]

2-A. Agreement. The bureau may make cooperative agreements with the Interstate Commerce Commission and the United States Department of Transportation to enforce the laws and regulations of the United States and this State concerning highway transportation.

[RR 1993, c. 2, §17 (RNU).]

2-B. Participation in federal pilot program; temporary exemptions from hours-of-service regulations. The bureau may grant temporary exemptions from the weekly restrictions in the intrastate hours-of-service regulations for the transportation of home heating oil during the winter months for the purpose of enabling intrastate motor carriers conducting such operations to do so under terms and conditions identical to those used in the Pilot Program for Drivers Delivering Home Heating Oil published in the Federal Register Vol. 66, No. 135. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

[PL 2003, c. 340, §1 (AMD).]

3. Precedence of rules. For vehicles to which this chapter applies, if a conflict exists between these safety rules adopted pursuant to this section and other laws requiring safety equipment, rules adopted pursuant to this section control.

[PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

4. Enforcement. Enforcement is as follows.

A. [PL 2009, c. 598, §10 (RP).]

B. [PL 2009, c. 598, §10 (RP).]

C. A law enforcement officer must investigate an alleged violation of this subchapter or a rule adopted by the bureau or by the United States Department of Transportation, prosecute violators and aid in the enforcement of the provisions of this subchapter. [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

D. A state police officer or motor carrier inspector designated by the Chief of the State Police who has satisfactorily completed a prescribed course of instruction established by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration and the bureau with respect to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration regulations adopted pursuant to this section must investigate an alleged violation of this subchapter or a rule adopted by the bureau or by the United States Department of Transportation, prosecute violators and aid in the enforcement of the provisions of this subchapter. [PL 2011, c. 164, §2 (NEW).]

E. A state police officer or motor carrier inspector designated in paragraph D is authorized:

(1) To stop, enter upon and inspect all commercial motor vehicles using the interstate highway system or public ways; and

(2) To inspect and copy records and inspect and examine lands, buildings and equipment of motor carriers for the purposes of verifying compliance with the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration regulations adopted pursuant to this section. [PL 2011, c. 164, §3 (NEW).]

[PL 2011, c. 164, §§2, 3 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

RR 1993, c. 2, §17 (COR). PL 1993, c. 683, §A2 (NEW). PL 1993, c. 683, §B5 (AFF). PL 1997, c. 653, §6 (AMD). PL 1999, c. 183, §§2,3 (AMD). PL 1999, c. 547, §B78 (AMD). PL 1999, c. 547, §B80 (AFF). PL 2001, c. 507, §1 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 340, §1 (AMD). PL 2005, c. 679, §1 (AMD). PL 2007, c. 505, §§1, 2 (AMD). PL 2009, c. 251, §1 (AMD). PL 2009, c. 598, §10 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 164, §§1-3 (AMD). PL 2013, c. 50, §1 (AMD). PL 2025, c. 384, §25 (AMD).

§555-A. United States Department of Transportation census number

The bureau may require a motor carrier to have and display a United States Department of Transportation census number. The bureau may adopt rules to administer this section. Rules adopted pursuant to this section are routine technical rules pursuant to Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter II-A. [PL 1997, c. 437, §13 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1997, c. 437, §13 (NEW).

§556. Exemptions

A motor vehicle is exempt from this subchapter, except sections 555, 555-A, 558-A and 560, as follows: [PL 2019, c. 634, §3 (AMD).]

1. Exclusive use.

[PL 2009, c. 598, §11 (RP).]

2. Single municipality.

[PL 2009, c. 598, §12 (RP).]

3. Government. A vehicle engaged, directly or through a contractor, exclusively in construction or maintenance work for the Federal Government, the State, a county, a municipality or an Indian tribe; and

[PL 2009, c. 598, §13 (AMD).]

4. Agricultural cooperatives.

[PL 2009, c. 598, §14 (RP).]

5. Farm.

[PL 2009, c. 598, §15 (RP).]

6. Passenger vehicles. While transporting passengers as follows:

A. [PL 2009, c. 598, §16 (RP).]

B. [PL 2009, c. 598, §16 (RP).]

C. [PL 2009, c. 598, §16 (RP).]

D. [PL 2009, c. 598, §16 (RP).]

E. A passenger motor carrier receiving state, municipal or federal subsidies is required to submit the passenger motor carrier operating name and list of equipment to the department and is subject to the rules of the Bureau of State Police pertaining to safety adopted under section 555. For the purpose of this section, the term "subsidies" includes assistance that is provided by the State

Government, municipal government or Federal Government to offset operating losses or to acquire capital equipment. [PL 2011, c. 356, §14 (AMD).]

[PL 2011, c. 356, §14 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1993, c. 683, §A2 (NEW). PL 1993, c. 683, §B5 (AFF). PL 1995, c. 65, §§A153,C15 (AFF). PL 1995, c. 65, §B8 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 482, §B15 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 482, §B22 (AFF). PL 1997, c. 437, §14 (AMD). PL 1997, c. 776, §22 (AMD). PL 2009, c. 598, §§11-19 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 356, §14 (AMD). PL 2013, c. 530, §2 (AMD). PL 2019, c. 634, §3 (AMD).

§557. Municipal authority

This subchapter does not restrict the authority of a municipality to enact ordinances to regulate and control the routing, parking, speed or safety of operation of motor vehicles; to exercise general police power over its public ways; or to require compliance with certain conditions before a motor vehicle is operated within that municipality. [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1993, c. 683, §A2 (NEW). PL 1993, c. 683, §B5 (AFF).

§558. Violation of provisions of this subchapter

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1993, c. 683, §A2 (NEW). PL 1993, c. 683, §B5 (AFF). PL 1995, c. 376, §2 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 401, §1 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 482, §A5 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 625, §§A32,33 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 452, §§Q9,10 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 452, §X2 (AFF). PL 2007, c. 703, §15 (AMD). PL 2009, c. 251, §§2-4 (AMD). PL 2009, c. 598, §§20-22 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 219, §1 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 455, §1 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 455, §4 (AFF). PL 2013, c. 530, §3 (RP).

§558-A. Violation of provisions of subchapter

1. Crimes; penalties. Except as provided in subsections 2 to 4, a person commits a crime if that person:

A. In fact violates this subchapter or a rule adopted pursuant to this subchapter. Violation of this paragraph is a Class E crime that is a strict liability crime as defined in Title 17-A, section 34, subsection 4-A; [PL 2013, c. 530, §4 (NEW).]

B. Intentionally or knowingly permits a violation of this subchapter or a rule adopted pursuant to this subchapter. Violation of this paragraph is a Class E crime; [PL 2013, c. 530, §4 (NEW).]

C. In fact violates any provision of the rules of the Department of Public Safety, Bureau of State Police adopted under section 555 that incorporates by reference 49 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 391.41 (2007), or as amended, and that violation occurs as a result of the operation of a commercial motor vehicle by a person who has methadone or its metabolite in that person's body. Violation of this paragraph is a Class E crime; or [PL 2013, c. 530, §4 (NEW).]

D. Intentionally or knowingly violates this subchapter or a rule adopted pursuant to this subchapter and the violation in fact causes either death or serious bodily injury to a person whose health or safety is protected by the provision violated and the death or serious bodily injury is a reasonably foreseeable consequence of the violation. Violation of this paragraph is a Class C crime. [PL 2013, c. 530, §4 (NEW).]

The maximum fine for a violation of a state rule that adopts by reference the federal regulations found in 49 Code of Federal Regulations and that is not an out-of-service order is $250, and the maximum

fine for a violation of a state rule that adopts by reference the federal regulations found in 49 Code of Federal Regulations and that meets the definition of an out-of-service order as defined in 49 Code of Federal Regulations is $500. For purposes of this subsection, "out-of-service order" means a declaration by a law enforcement officer authorized to enforce the provisions of this subchapter that a driver, a commercial motor vehicle or a motor carrier operation is out of service pursuant to 49 Code of Federal Regulations, Sections 386.72, 392.5, 392.9a, 395.13 or 396.9, or compatible laws, or the North American Standard Out-of-Service Criteria.
[PL 2013, c. 530, §4 (NEW).]

2. Traffic infractions involving federal regulations; violations. The following provisions govern traffic infractions.

A. A person may not violate any provision of the rules of the Department of Public Safety, Bureau of State Police adopted under section 555 that incorporates by reference any of the following federal regulations or that is an amended version of any of the following federal regulations:

(1) 49 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 390.21;

(2) Except as otherwise provided in subsection 1, paragraph C, 49 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 391.41;

(3) 49 Code of Federal Regulations, Sections 392.7, 392.8, 392.9(a), 392.9(b), 392.16, 392.22, 392.24, 392.25, 392.33, 392.71, 392.80 and 392.82;

(4) Any section of 49 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 393;

(4-A) 49 Code of Federal Regulations, Sections 395.3(a)(3)(ii), 395.8(a)(2)(ii), 395.8(d) and 395.8(i); or

(5) 49 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 396, except Sections 396.7 and 396.9. [PL 2017, c. 165, §4 (AMD).]

B. The following provisions govern penalties for violations of this subsection.

(1) A person who violates this subsection commits a traffic infraction for which a fine of $250 must be adjudged.

(2) A person who violates this subsection after having previously violated this subsection commits a traffic infraction for which a fine of $500 must be adjudged. [PL 2013, c. 530, §4 (NEW).]
[PL 2017, c. 165, §4 (AMD).]

3. Traffic infractions not involving federal regulations; violations. A person may not violate any provision of the Secretary of State's rules adopted pursuant to section 551. The following penalties apply to violations of this subsection.

A. A person who violates this subsection commits a traffic infraction for which a fine of $250 must be adjudged. [PL 2013, c. 530, §4 (NEW).]

B. A person who violates this subsection after having previously violated this subsection commits a traffic infraction for which a fine of $500 must be adjudged. [PL 2013, c. 530, §4 (NEW).]
[PL 2013, c. 530, §4 (NEW).]

4. Civil violations. A person commits a civil violation if that person violates this subchapter or a rule adopted pursuant to this subchapter and the violation is discovered during a compliance review as that term is defined in 49 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 385.3, unless the compliance review occurs during the course of or as a result of a criminal investigation. A person who violates this subsection is subject to a fine that must be determined with due consideration of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's uniform fine assessment program. A fine imposed may not be greater

than the fine amount provided in the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's uniform fine assessment program.
[PL 2013, c. 530, §4 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2013, c. 530, §4 (NEW). PL 2015, c. 176, §1 (AMD). PL 2017, c. 165, §4 (AMD).

§558-B. Notification by court to Secretary of State of a failure to appear or noncompliance with court order; resulting suspension

1. Notification by court. If a person after being ordered to appear to answer a violation fails to appear or after appearing fails to comply with an order issued pursuant to this subchapter, the court shall notify the Secretary of State.
[PL 2013, c. 530, §4 (NEW).]

2. Suspension of registration. After receiving notice pursuant to subsection 1, the Secretary of State shall suspend the person's commercial registration certificates and plates and the privilege to operate a commercial motor vehicle in this State. The suspension must remain in effect until the person appears in court and complies with a court order.
[PL 2013, c. 530, §4 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2013, c. 530, §4 (NEW).

§559. Agents for service of process

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1993, c. 683, §A2 (NEW). PL 1993, c. 683, §B5 (AFF). PL 1995, c. 65, §A95 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 65, §§A153,C15 (AFF). PL 2009, c. 598, §23 (RP).

§560. Certificate of Chief of State Police; Secretary of State

The certificate of the Chief of the State Police must be received in any court of law in this State as prima facie evidence of the making or issuing by the Bureau of State Police of any rule authorized by this chapter. The certificate of the Secretary of State or the Secretary of State's deputy, under seal of the State, must be received in any court of law in this State or in any proceeding pursuant to this chapter as prima facie evidence of the issuance, suspension, revocation or restoration of any driver's license, or the issuance, suspension, annulment or restoration of any motor vehicle. [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1993, c. 683, §A2 (NEW). PL 1993, c. 683, §B5 (AFF).

§561. Transportation Safety Fund

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1993, c. 683, §A2 (NEW). PL 1993, c. 683, §B5 (AFF). PL 1995, c. 273, §1 (AMD). PL 1997, c. 394, §A1 (AMD). PL 2001, c. 565, §F1 (RP).

§561-A. Fines and fees

Fines and fees authorized by this subchapter must be deposited with the Treasurer of State and accounted for by the State Controller as undedicated revenue to the Highway Fund. [PL 2001, c. 565, Pt. F, §2 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2001, c. 565, §F2 (NEW).

§562. Motor Carrier Review Board

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1995, c. 376, §3 (NEW). PL 2001, c. 361, §16 (AMD). PL 2009, c. 598, §24 (AMD). PL 2017, c. 327, §§16, 17 (AMD). PL 2019, c. 634, §4 (RP).

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