



# 132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2025

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Legislative Document

No. 850

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H.P. 536

House of Representatives, March 4, 2025

### An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicle Laws

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Submitted by the Secretary of State pursuant to Joint Rule 204.

Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative CRAFTS of Newcastle.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 29-A MRSA §161**, as enacted by PL 2023, c. 419, §1 and reallocated by PL  
3 2023, c. 1, Pt. A, §25, is amended by enacting at the end a new paragraph to read:

4 The Secretary of State may adopt rules to administer this section. Rules adopted under  
5 this paragraph must include, but are not limited to, rules governing the transaction fees  
6 charged by the kiosk vendor. Rules adopted under this paragraph are routine technical  
7 rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

8 **Sec. 2. 29-A MRSA §651-A, sub-§2**, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 539, §2, is  
9 amended to read:

10 **2. Notification of release or update.** The lienholder shall use the electronic lien titling  
11 program to notify the Secretary of State when a lien is released or updated; ~~and~~

12 **Sec. 3. 29-A MRSA §651-A, sub-§3**, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 539, §2, is  
13 amended to read:

14 **3. Paper copy.** The lienholder may request a paper copy of the certificate of title;  
15 and

16 **Sec. 4. 29-A MRSA §651-A, sub-§4** is enacted to read:

17 **4. Fee.** The lienholder shall pay a fee of \$1.00 per electronic lien transaction, which  
18 must be deposited into the Motor Vehicle Services Fund established under section 159.

19 **Sec. 5. 29-A MRSA §754, sub-§4**, as amended by PL 2019, c. 498, §18, is further  
20 amended to read:

21 **4. Vehicle or vehicle part disposal.** Impounded vehicles and vehicle parts that are  
22 unclaimed, recovered after theft or unidentifiable become the property of the Secretary of  
23 State. The Secretary of State shall dispose of those vehicles and vehicle parts in the  
24 following manner.

25 A. Within 10 days after impoundment, the Secretary of State shall notify by registered  
26 or certified mail, return receipt requested, the last known owner and all lienholders of  
27 record. The notice must describe the year, make, model and vehicle identification  
28 number, if known. The notice must state that failure of the owner or lienholder to  
29 exercise the owner's or the lienholder's right to reclaim the vehicle or vehicle part  
30 within 30 days from receipt of notice means the vehicle or vehicle part is abandoned  
31 and becomes the property of the Secretary of State. An owner or lienholder claiming  
32 ownership under this paragraph must take possession of the vehicle or vehicle part  
33 within 30 days from receipt of notice to reclaim the vehicle or vehicle part.

34 ~~B. After expiration of the 30-day notice period, the Secretary of State may dispose of~~  
35 ~~the vehicle at public auction or report the vehicle as abandoned under Title 33, chapter~~  
36 ~~45.~~

37 C. The Secretary of State may dispose of the vehicle or vehicle part in a manner  
38 considered appropriate by the Secretary of State, including, but not limited to, selling  
39 the vehicle or vehicle part. Any proceeds from a sale of a vehicle or vehicle part under  
40 this paragraph must be deposited in the Motor Vehicle Services Fund established under  
41 section 159.



1 registration plate fee by \$1.00 to support the electronic temporary registration plate  
2 program.