

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-FIVE

H.P. 536 - L.D. 850

An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicle Laws

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

A. Within 10 days after impoundment, the Secretary of State shall notify by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, the last known owner and all lienholders of

record. The notice must describe the year, make, model and vehicle identification number, if known. The notice must state that failure of the owner or lienholder to exercise the owner's or the lienholder's right to reclaim the vehicle or vehicle part within 30 days from receipt of notice means the vehicle or vehicle part is abandoned and becomes the property of the Secretary of State. An owner or lienholder claiming ownership under this paragraph must take possession of the vehicle or vehicle part within 30 days from receipt of notice to reclaim the vehicle or vehicle part.

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

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

Sec. 6. 29-A MRSA §851, sub-§2-A is enacted to read:

2-A. Electronic temporary registration plate program. "Electronic temporary registration plate program" means an electronic program that permits the creation of a temporary registration plate and the maintenance of temporary registration plate information.

Sec. 7. 29-A MRSA §954-A, sub-§1-A is enacted to read:

1-A. Electronic temporary registration plate program. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the Secretary of State may use, but may not require the use of, an electronic temporary registration plate program. If the Secretary of State uses an electronic temporary registration plate program under this subsection, the Secretary of State may adopt rules to implement and administer the program. Rules adopted under this subsection must include, but are not limited to, rules governing the process by which a dealer elects to participate in or stop participating in the electronic temporary registration plate program. Rules adopted under this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

Sec. 8. 29-A MRSA §954-A, sub-§2, as amended by PL 2021, c. 126, §1 and reallocated by PL 2023, c. 257, §7, is further amended to read:

2. Payment of fee for temporary registration plate. The fee for a temporary registration plate is \$4 ~~\$2.00~~ per plate, \$1.00 of which must be deposited into the Motor Vehicle Services Fund established under section 159 to establish and maintain an electronic temporary registration plate program. A purchaser may operate the motor vehicle or trailer with a temporary registration plate for a period of 30 consecutive days without payment of a regular fee. At the end of this initial period, a resident who is unable to comply with the requirements of chapter 7 or a nonresident who has applied for but has not yet received a registration certificate from a home state may request the Secretary of State to extend this period without charge for an additional 20 days.

Sec. 9. Effective date. That section of this Act that enacts the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 29-A, section 651-A, subsection 4 and that section that amends Title 29-A, section 954-A, subsection 2 take effect January 1, 2026.