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House of Representatives, March 3, 2021

An Act Regarding Motor Vehicle Registration Violations

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R(+ B. Hunt

ROBERT B. HUNT Clerk

Presented by Representative CLOUTIER of Lewiston. Cosponsored by Senator SANBORN of Cumberland and Representatives: BRENNAN of Portland, CONNOR of Lewiston, CRAVEN of Lewiston, LOOKNER of Portland, MORALES of South Portland, PLUECKER of Warren, WARREN of Hallowell, Senator: LIBBY of Androscoggin.

1	Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:
2 3	Sec. 1. 29-A MRSA §351, sub-§1, as amended by PL 2013, c. 112, §6, is further amended to read:
4 5 6 7	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, after a warning under subsection 2 has been issued, commits:
8 9 10 11	A. A traffic infraction for which a fine of not more than \$50 may be adjudged if the vehicle was registered and the registration has been expired for more than 30 days but less than 150 days; or for a first offense. For each subsequent offense, a fine of not more than \$500 may be adjudged.
12 13	B. A Class E crime if the vehicle was not registered or the registration has been expired for 150 days or more.
14 15	Sec. 2. 29-A MRSA §351, sub-§1-A, as amended by PL 2005, c. 433, §5 and affected by §28, is further amended to read:
16 17 18 19 20	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 after a warning under subsection 2 has been issued commits:
21 22 23 24	A. A traffic infraction for which a fine of not more than \$50 may be adjudged if more than 30 days but less than 150 days has elapsed since establishing residency; or for a first offense. For each subsequent offense, a fine of not more than \$500 may be adjudged.
25	B. A Class E crime if more than 150 days have elapsed since establishing residency.
26 27	Sec. 3. 29-A MRSA §351, sub-§2, as amended by PL 1999, c. 68, §1, is further amended to read:
28 29 30 31	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:
32	A. Within $2 \underline{10}$ business days, the owner or operator must register the vehicle;
33 34	B. The renewed registration expires on the same month as the previous registration; and
35	C. The registration fee is the same as for a full year's registration.
36 37	Sec. 4. 29-A MRSA §351, sub-§5, ¶A, as enacted by PL 2001, c. 671, §4, is amended to read:
38 39 40	A. A traffic infraction for which a forfeiture fine of not more than \$50 may be adjudged if the registration has been expired for less than 150 days; or for a first offense. For each subsequent offense, a fine of not more than \$500 may be adjudged.

1 Sec. 5. 29-A MRSA §351, sub-§5, ¶B, as enacted by PL 2001, c. 671, §4, is 2 repealed. 3 Sec. 6. 29-A MRSA §351, sub-§7 is enacted to read: 4 7. Notification. The Secretary of State shall create a system to notify individuals with 5 registrations that are to expire within the next 30 days. The notification must include: 6 A. The date the vehicle's registration expires; and 7 B. The available methods to obtain or renew the registration. 8 **SUMMARY** 9 This bill removes the designation as a Class E crime of the following: operating with 10 expired motor vehicle registrations, failure to change out-of-state registrations and 11 operating with expired 14-day registration plates. It requires a warning to be issued for all 12 traffic stops for expired registrations. It requires registrations to be obtained or changed within 10 business days of a warning having been issued. It establishes a \$500 fine for 2nd 13 14 and subsequent offenses. It also requires the Secretary of State to establish a notification 15 system to inform individuals of registrations that are going to expire within the next 30 16 days.