



# 130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2021

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 990**

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S.P. 320

In Senate, March 10, 2021

### **An Act Regarding Veterans License Plates**

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Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D M Grant", is positioned above the printed name of the Secretary of the Senate.

DAREK M. GRANT  
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator ROSEN of Hancock.

Cosponsored by Senators: DESCHAMBAULT of York, FARRIN of Somerset, LUCHINI of Hancock, Representatives: COREY of Windham, KINNEY of Knox.

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

2       **Sec. 1. 29-A MRSA §523, sub-§3**, as amended by PL 2017, c. 43, §2 and PL 2019,  
3       c. 377, §6, is further amended to read:

4       **3. Special veterans registration plates.** The Secretary of State, on application and  
5       evidence of payment of the excise tax required by Title 36, section 1482 and a one-time  
6       payment of the registration fee required by section 501 or by section 504, subsection 1 for  
7       a vehicle with a registered gross weight over 10,000 pounds, shall issue a registration  
8       certificate and a set of special veterans registration plates to be used in lieu of regular  
9       registration plates for a vehicle with a registered gross weight of not more than 26,000  
10      pounds to any person who has served in the United States Armed Forces and who has been  
11      honorably discharged or to a person who has served in the United States Armed Forces for  
12      at least 3 years and continues to serve. If a person who qualifies for a special veterans  
13      registration plate under this subsection is the primary driver of up to 3 vehicles, the  
14      Secretary of State may issue in accordance with this section a set of special veterans  
15      registration plates for each vehicle, and the registration fee required by section 501 or by  
16      section 504, subsection 1 must be paid annually for each additional plate issued after the  
17      first set.

18      Each application must be accompanied by the applicant's Armed Forces Report of Transfer  
19      or Discharge, DD Form 214, certification from the United States Veterans Administration  
20      or the appropriate branch of the United States Armed Forces verifying the applicant's  
21      military service and honorable discharge, or a letter from the Department of Defense,  
22      Veterans and Emergency Management, Maine Bureau of Veterans' Services verifying  
23      active duty military service and length of service.

24      The Secretary of State shall recall a special veterans registration plate of a recipient who  
25      has been less than honorably discharged from the United States Armed Forces.

26      All surplus revenue collected for issuance of the special registration plates is retained by  
27      the Secretary of State to maintain and support this program.

28      The surviving spouse of a special veteran plate recipient issued plates in accordance with  
29      this subsection may retain and display the special veteran plates as long as the surviving  
30      spouse remains unmarried. Upon remarriage, the surviving spouse may not use the special  
31      veteran plates on a motor vehicle, but may retain them as a keepsake. Upon the death of  
32      the surviving spouse, the family may retain the special veteran plates, but may not use them  
33      on a motor vehicle.

34      The Secretary of State may issue a special disability registration plate for veterans in  
35      accordance with section 521, subsections 1, 5, 7 and 9. The special disability registration  
36      plate for veterans must bear the International Symbol of Access. The registration fee  
37      required by section 501 or by section 504, subsection 1 is a one-time payment for the  
38      special disability registration plate for a veteran for the first plate issued to that veteran and  
39      an annual fee for each additional plate issued.

40      The Secretary of State may issue a set of special veterans registration plates when the  
41      qualifying veteran is the primary driver of a company-owned vehicle if:

42           A. The company is owned solely by a veteran who qualifies for a veteran plate under  
43           this section;

1 B. The vehicle is leased by a veteran who qualifies for the veteran plate under this  
2 subsection; or

3 C. The vehicle is leased by the employer of a veteran who qualifies for the veteran  
4 plate and the employer has assigned the vehicle exclusively to the veteran. The  
5 employer must attest in writing that the veteran will have exclusive use of the vehicle  
6 and agrees to the display of the special veteran plate.

7 **Sec. 2. 29-A MRSA §523, sub-§3-A**, as amended by PL 2011, c. 356, §12 and PL  
8 2019, c. 377, §6, is further amended to read:

9 **3-A. Motorcycle plates; veterans.** In addition to any plate issued pursuant to  
10 subsection 3, the Secretary of State, on application and evidence of payment of the excise  
11 tax required by Title 36, section 1482 and the registration fee required by section 515,  
12 subsection 1, shall issue a registration certificate and a special veterans registration plate  
13 for up to 3 designated motorcycles owned or controlled by a person who has served in the  
14 United States Armed Forces and who has been honorably discharged or to a person who  
15 has served in the United States Armed Forces for at least 3 years and continues to serve.  
16 The registration fee required by section 515, subsection 1 is a one-time payment for the  
17 first plate issued and an annual payment for each additional plate issued.

18 Each application must be accompanied by the applicant's Armed Forces Report of Transfer  
19 or Discharge, DD Form 214, certification from the United States Department of Veterans  
20 Affairs or the appropriate branch of the United States Armed Forces verifying the  
21 applicant's military service and honorable discharge, or a letter from the Department of  
22 Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, Maine Bureau of Veterans' Services  
23 verifying active duty military service and length of service.

24 The Secretary of State shall recall a special veterans registration plate of a recipient who  
25 has been less than honorably discharged from the United States Armed Forces.

26 All surplus revenue collected for issuance of the special veterans registration plates is  
27 retained by the Secretary of State to maintain and support this program.

28 Upon request the Secretary of State shall issue special veterans registration plates for a  
29 motorcycle that are also vanity plates. These plates are issued in accordance with this  
30 section and section 453. Vanity plates issued under this subsection may not duplicate  
31 vanity plates issued in another class of plate.

32 The surviving spouse of a recipient of a special veterans registration plate issued in  
33 accordance with this subsection may retain and use the plate or plates as long as the  
34 surviving spouse remains unmarried. Upon remarriage, the surviving spouse may not use  
35 the plate or plates, but may retain them. Upon the death of the surviving spouse, the family  
36 may retain the plate or plates, but may not use them.

37 The Secretary of State may not issue special commemorative decals under subsection 5 or  
38 6 for use on special veterans registration plates for a motorcycle.

## 39 SUMMARY

40 This bill allows a veteran who applies for a special veterans registration plate for an  
41 automobile or a motorcycle to pay the registration fee only once for the first set of plates  
42 issued. Any additional issuance of plates requires payment of the fee annually.