

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-ONE

S.P. 65 - L.D. 130

An Act To Create Appropriate Standards for the Secretary of State To Follow When Approving the Assignments of Vanity Registration Plates

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

Sec. 1. 29-A MRSA §453, sub-§3-A, as amended by PL 2019, c. 397, §4, is further amended to read:

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

- C. Falsely suggests an association with a public institutions institution or a government or government agency;
- D. Is duplicative; or
- 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;
- F. Is profane or obscene;
- G. Makes a derogatory reference to age, race, ethnicity, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, ancestry or national origin, religion or physical or mental disability;
- H. Connotes genitalia or relates to sexual acts; or
- I. Forms a slang term, abbreviation, phonetic spelling or mirror image of a word or term otherwise described in this subsection.

Sec. 2. 29-A MRSA §453, sub-§3-B is enacted to read:

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.

Sec. 3. 29-A MRSA §453, sub-§3-C is enacted to read:

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.