

STATE OF MAINE

—
IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-ONE

—
H.P. 475 - L.D. 644

An Act Regarding Motor Vehicle Registration Violations

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

Sec. 1. 29-A MRSA §351, sub-§1, as amended by PL 2013, c. 112, §6, is further amended to read:

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 commits:

A. A traffic infraction for which a fine of not more than \$50 may be adjudged for a first offense if the vehicle was registered and the registration has been expired for more than 30 days but less than 150 days; or

~~B. A Class E crime if the vehicle was not registered or the registration has been expired for 150 days or more.~~

C. A traffic infraction for which a fine of not more than \$100 may be adjudged for a first offense if the vehicle was registered and the registration has been expired for 150 days or more;

D. A traffic infraction for which a fine of not more than \$500 may be adjudged for each subsequent offense; or

E. A Class E crime if the vehicle has never been registered by the current owner of the vehicle.

A person served with a Violation Summons and Complaint charging a violation of this subsection may have the complaint dismissed if that person shows satisfactory evidence of registration that was in effect at the time of the alleged violation or that the person subsequently registered the vehicle prior to the date required for filing an answer to the complaint. The clerk of the District Court Violations Bureau must dismiss the complaint if, prior to the date required for filing an answer to the complaint, the person charged files a copy of the Violation Summons and Complaint with the bureau, together with satisfactory evidence of registration. If a person files a timely answer to a Violation Summons and Complaint alleging a violation of this subsection and that person presents to the court at the time of trial satisfactory evidence of registration, the court must dismiss the complaint.

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:

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 commits:

A. A traffic infraction for which a fine of not more than \$50 may be adjudged for a first offense if more than 30 days but less than 150 days has elapsed since establishing residency; ~~or~~

A-1. A traffic infraction for which a fine of not more than \$500 may be adjudged for a 2nd and each subsequent offense; or

B. A Class E crime if more than 150 days have elapsed since establishing residency.

Sec. 3. 29-A MRSA §351, sub-§2, ¶A, as enacted by PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 and affected by Pt. B, §5, is amended to read:

A. Within ~~2~~ 10 business days, the owner or operator must register the vehicle;

Sec. 4. Effective date. This Act takes effect July 1, 2022.