

COVER SHEET

Maine State Legislature

Committee: Transportation

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LD: 312

Testimony Submitted By:

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Organization: Bureau of Motor Vehicles



Department of the Secretary of State

Bureau of Motor Vehicles

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JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

L.D. 312 An Act To Extend the Use of Maine Bicentennial Registration Plates through 2021
Testimony Provided by Stephen P Ashcroft, Director of Vehicle Services, Bureau of Motor Vehicles
February 16, 2021

Senator Diamond, Representative Martin, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation, my name is Stephen Ashcroft. I am the Director of Vehicle Services for the Bureau of Motor Vehicles. I am representing the Bureau today speaking “neither for nor against” LD 321.

In reading the language contained within this proposed legislation, it has occurred to us that there is some potential for misunderstanding on the expiration of plates already in circulation and the potential for some additional cost if there is a need to produce a new batch of plates with the correct expiration on them.

Please let me explain. The sentence starting on line 25 and continuing through lines 26 and 27 clearly articulates that the expiration must be printed on the registration plate. Until Covid, this was perfectly fine. But as we contemplate extending the display of this plate through the end of this calendar year, a problem arises with the nearly 5,166 plates already on citizens vehicles and 500 plates we have in stock displaying the 2020 expiration date. We have discussed options ranging from a standard validation sticker to be affixed to the plate to a general formal announcement to law enforcement explaining the expiration. We believe that the solution could be as simple as striking the expiration date language in this sentence. We would also add a statement about previously issued plates with an expiration date of December 31, 2020, although this may not be necessary.

Sec. 1. State of Maine Bicentennial commemorative plate. Resolved: That

23 the Secretary of State shall issue, at no cost to the Secretary of State, a reflectorized,
24 commemorative simulated registration plate in recognition and celebration of the
25 bicentennial of the State, which became the 23rd state on March 15, 1820. The Secretary
26 of State shall design the plate, ~~and the plate must bear the date of its expiration, which is~~
27 ~~December 31, 2020-2021.~~ Notwithstanding the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 29-A, section
28 454, the State of Maine Bicentennial commemorative plate may be displayed by covering,
29 but not removing, the front registration plate on a motor vehicle, including a motor vehicle
30 registered outside this State and operated within it, beginning January 1, 2018 to December
31 31, ~~2020-2021.~~ All previously issued Maine Bicentennial commemorative plates expiring
December 31, 2020 are also authorized to expire on December 31, 2021. The plate may not be
32 displayed on a truck tractor as defined in Title 29-A,
section 101, subsection 90; and be it further

Section 2 **Display** already authorizes it's display in lines 16-20 as does the remainder of this particular section. This along with proper messaging to law enforcement and the general public should alleviate any misunderstanding regarding the display of these plates.

I'd be happy to answer any questions you may have at this time.