

# Public laws and Resolves Affecting Motor Vehicles

## 127th Legislature, Second Regular Session

Revised April 27, 2016

Laws are effective April 15, 2016 unless otherwise noted.

**Public law 473, LD 1483, *Emergency. Effective April 15, 2016.* “An Act to Amend Maine’s Motor Vehicle Laws.”** This is BMV’s omnibus bill. It makes several changes to motor vehicle law:

Clarifies that a “combination vehicle” may be a *truck* or truck-tractor used in combination with one or more trailers.

Clarifies that the application for registration must include the vehicle’s fuel type or *motive power*. This would include capturing information on electric vehicles, hybrids, and exotic fuel types.

Repeals the authorization for “lobster commercial” and “agriculture farm” specialty plates. These plates will be phased out (along with conservation motor home, conservation trailer, and handicapped motor home plates.) Plates already issued may continue to be used. Towns and branches may use up any existing stock.

Removes the word “commercial” from the law in several places relative to the operation of “trucks”. This should reduce confusion over whether a truck is being used in “commercial” as opposed to private or pleasure operation. Trucks are registered on the basis of gross weight regardless of usage.

Removes the requirement that a BMV municipal agent be either a tax collector or town or city manager.

Clarifies that a disability placard may be issued for up to six years, to expire on the applicant’s birthday.

Clarifies the Bureau’s authority to issue a title or salvage certificate for a vehicle previously reported stolen.

Adds ‘domestic partner’ to the list of related entities in section 2458.

Updates the reference to the IFTA governing documents to the latest version.

Funds some Bureau reclassifications.

Clarifies that the issuance of a special restricted license for school, employment or medical needs applies only to 15 year olds who meet the requirements as outlined in statute. It further makes consistent the number of hours of driving time required for all exceptions, however, does provide the

Secretary of State discretionary authority to reduce the required minimum hours when issuing for medical needs.

Requires an applicant for a motorcycle license, to complete a motorcycle driver education program that consists of both classroom and hands on rider training. Further, a person who currently has a permit or who does not successfully complete the hands on training and is only issued a motorcycle permit must complete the road test portion within the 2 year term of the permit or they will be required to take another rider education course.

Exempts noncommercial driver education schools that are exempt from driver education licensing fees, to also be exempt from the driver education surety bond requirement.