



# 126th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2013

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Legislative Document

No. 570

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H.P. 389

House of Representatives, February 19, 2013

### **An Act To Create a Vintage Car Category in the Motor Vehicle Laws**

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Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.

*Millicent M. MacFarland*  
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND  
Clerk

Presented by Representative COTTA of China.  
Cosponsored by Senator KATZ of Kennebec and  
Representatives: CASAVANT of Biddeford, HOBBS of Saco, KESCHL of Belgrade,  
KRUGER of Thomaston, NUTTING of Oakland.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 29-A MRSA §101, sub-§3, ¶A**, as enacted by PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2  
3 and affected by Pt. B, §5, is amended to read:

4 A. More than ~~25~~ 50 years old;

5 **Sec. 2. 29-A MRSA §101, sub-§91-A** is enacted to read:

6 **91-A. Vintage auto.** "Vintage auto" means an automobile or truck manufactured in  
7 or after model year 1916 that is:

8 A. More than 25 years old but less than 51 years old;

9 B. Equipped with an engine manufactured either at the same time as the vehicle or to  
10 the specifications of the original engine;

11 C. Substantially maintained in original or restored condition primarily for use in  
12 exhibitions, club activities, parades or other functions of public interest;

13 D. Not used as its owner's primary mode of transportation of passengers or goods;

14 E. Not a reconstructed vehicle; and

15 F. Not an altered vehicle.

16 **Sec. 3. 29-A MRSA §457**, as amended by PL 2005, c. 34, §§1 and 2 and c. 321,  
17 §§2 and 3 and affected by §6, is further amended to read:

18 **§457. Antique and vintage vehicle registration plates**

19 **1. Antique and vintage vehicle registration plates authorized.** The Secretary of  
20 State may issue registration plates for antique autos, vintage autos, custom vehicles,  
21 horseless carriages, street rods or antique motorcycles. These plates must bear the  
22 inscription "Maine" and the inscription "Antique Auto," "Vintage Auto," "Custom  
23 Vehicle," "Horseless Carriage" or "Street Rod" or, for antique motorcycles, the  
24 inscription "Antique."

25 **3. Contemporary plates.** An owner of an antique auto, vintage auto, horseless  
26 carriage, street rod or antique motorcycle may use registration plates that were issued in  
27 the same year the antique or vintage vehicle was manufactured, as long as the motor  
28 vehicle:

29 A. Is over 25 years old;

30 B. Is registered as an antique or vintage vehicle; and

31 C. Carries a valid antique or vintage motor vehicle registration certificate and plates.

32 **4. Display of contemporary plates.** Contemporary registration plates must have  
33 matching plate numbers, be affixed to both the front and rear and conspicuously bear the  
34 year of manufacture.

1           **5. Street rod standards.** The Chief of the State Police shall establish standards to  
2 qualify vehicles as street rods. These standards include:

- 3           A. The age of the vehicle;
- 4           B. The equipment and its condition; and
- 5           C. Permissible modifications.

6           **6. Application.** An application for registration of a vehicle under this section must  
7 be accompanied by an affidavit that includes a statement indicating the year and make of  
8 the motor vehicle and that the vehicle is garaged or maintained in the State.

9           **7. Registration fee.** The fee for registration of an antique auto, vintage auto,  
10 horseless carriage or antique motorcycle is \$15. The fee for registration of a street rod is  
11 \$30.

12           **Sec. 4. 29-A MRSA §651, sub-§3,** as amended by PL 2011, c. 356, §15, is  
13 further amended to read:

14           **3. Warranty title; antique auto; vintage auto; horseless carriage; antique**  
15 **motorcycle; classic vehicle.** The Secretary of State may, on documented and notarized  
16 evidence of ownership and payment of a \$40 fee, issue a warranty title to a Maine  
17 resident owner of an antique auto, vintage auto, horseless carriage, antique motorcycle or  
18 classic vehicle. A warranty title denotes that there are no known liens or encumbrances  
19 against the vehicle.

20           **Sec. 5. 29-A MRSA §1252, sub-§1, ¶C,** as amended by PL 2011, c. 165, §1, is  
21 further amended to read:

22           C. A Class C license may be issued for the operation of a single vehicle or a  
23 combination of vehicles that does not meet the definition of Class A or Class B  
24 license.

25           A holder of a Class C license may, with an appropriate endorsement, operate all  
26 vehicles in that class.

27           A Class C license authorizes:

28           (1) A full-time or volunteer member of an organized municipal, state or federal  
29 fire department and a law enforcement officer who is a member of an organized  
30 municipal, state or federal law enforcement department to operate fire apparatus  
31 as described in 49 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 383.3 (2005) and to  
32 operate a commercial motor vehicle as a mobile command unit. For purposes of  
33 this subparagraph, "mobile command unit" means a motor vehicle designed and  
34 used by a law enforcement agency primarily as a command and control platform  
35 for emergency response;

36           (2) A person to operate recreational vehicles for personal use;

37           (3) A person to operate commercial motor vehicles for military purposes as  
38 required in 49 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 383.3 (2005);

- 1 (4) A person to operate registered farm motor trucks bearing the letter "F" on the  
2 registration plate when the vehicle is:
- 3 (a) Controlled and operated by a farmer, including operation by the farmer's  
4 employees or family members;
- 5 (b) Used to transport agricultural products, farm machinery or farm supplies  
6 to or from a farm;
- 7 (c) Not used in the operation of a common or contract motor carrier; and  
8 (d) Used within 150 miles of the registered owner's farm;
- 9 (5) A person, employed by a city, town, county, district or other unit of local  
10 government created by or pursuant to law that has a total population of 3,000  
11 individuals or less, to operate a commercial motor vehicle within the boundaries  
12 of that unit of local government for the purpose of removing snow or ice from a  
13 roadway by plowing, sanding or salting, if:
- 14 (a) The properly licensed employee who ordinarily operates a commercial  
15 motor vehicle for those purposes is unable to operate the vehicle; or
- 16 (b) The employing governmental entity determines that a snow or ice  
17 emergency exists that requires additional assistance; or
- 18 (6) A person to operate a truck registered as an antique ~~automobile~~ auto or  
19 vintage auto, regardless of weight or combination weight, provided the vehicle is  
20 used for noncommercial recreational purposes or purposes pursuant to section  
21 101, subsection 3.

22 **Sec. 6. 29-A MRSA §1751, sub-§5** is enacted to read:

23 **5. Vintage autos.** A vintage auto registered under section 457 must receive a  
24 biennial inspection based upon standards determined by the Chief of the State Police.

25 **Sec. 7. 29-A MRSA §2111, sub-§2**, as enacted by PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 and  
26 affected by Pt. B, §5, is amended to read:

27 **2. Prohibition.** A person commits a Class E crime if that person operates a motor  
28 vehicle, except for an antique auto, vintage auto, a motor vehicle using liquefied  
29 petroleum gas as engine fuel or a farm tractor, on a public way if any operational element  
30 of the air pollution control system of that vehicle has been removed, dismantled or  
31 otherwise rendered inoperative.

32 **Sec. 8. 30-A MRSA §3752, sub-§1, ¶A**, as amended by PL 2005, c. 424, §1, is  
33 further amended to read:

34 A. "Automobile graveyard" does not include:

35 (1) An area used for temporary storage of vehicles or vehicle parts by an  
36 establishment or place of business that is primarily engaged in doing vehicle  
37 repair work to make repairs to render a motor vehicle serviceable. In order for a  
38 vehicle's storage to be considered temporary, it must be removed from the site  
39 within 180 calendar days of its receipt;

- 1 (2) An area used by an automobile hobbyist to store, organize, restore or display  
2 antique autos, vintage autos, antique motorcycles, classic vehicles, horseless  
3 carriages, reconstructed vehicles, street rods or parts of these vehicles as these  
4 vehicles are defined in Title 29-A, section 101 as long as the hobbyist's activities  
5 comply with all applicable federal and state statutes and rules and municipal  
6 ordinances, other than ordinances that are more restrictive than this subsection  
7 regarding the storage of vehicles or vehicle parts that are collected by a hobbyist,  
8 except that a municipal ordinance may require areas used by an automobile  
9 hobbyist to comply with the screening requirements in section 3754-A,  
10 subsection 1, paragraph A and the standards in section 3754-A, subsection 5,  
11 paragraph A, paragraph B, subparagraph (1) and paragraph C. For the purposes  
12 of this subparagraph, an automobile hobbyist is a person who is not primarily  
13 engaged in the business of selling any of those vehicles or parts from those  
14 vehicles;
- 15 (3) An area used for the parking or storage of vehicles, vehicle parts or  
16 equipment intended for use by a municipality, quasi-municipal entity or state or  
17 federal agency;
- 18 (4) An area used for the storage of operational farm tractors and related farm  
19 equipment, log skidders, logging tractors or other vehicles exempted from  
20 registration under Title 29-A, chapter 5;
- 21 (5) An area used for the parking or storage of vehicles or equipment being  
22 offered for sale by a dealer, equipment dealer, trailer dealer or vehicle auction  
23 business as defined in Title 29-A, section 851;
- 24 (6) An area used for the storage of vehicles by an establishment or place of  
25 business that is primarily engaged in business as a new vehicle dealer as defined  
26 in Title 29-A, section 851;
- 27 (7) An area used for temporary storage of vehicles by an establishment or place  
28 of business that is primarily engaged in business as an insurance salvage pool. In  
29 order for a vehicle's storage to be considered temporary under this subparagraph,  
30 the vehicle must be removed from the site within 180 days of receipt of title by  
31 the business; or
- 32 (8) An area used for the parking or storage of operational commercial motor  
33 vehicles, special equipment or special mobile equipment as defined in Title 29-A,  
34 section 101 that is temporarily out of service but is expected to be used by the  
35 vehicle or equipment owner or by an operator designated by the owner. This  
36 subsection does not exempt an area used for the parking or storage of equipment  
37 or vehicles that are not operational while stored or parked in the area.

38 **SUMMARY**

39 This bill creates a new vehicle registration category called "vintage auto" for a motor  
40 vehicle more than 25 years old but less than 51 years old. The vintage auto must be  
41 inspected biennially.