

OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS

Date: February 23, 2021
To: Transportation Committee
From: Sam Praver, Legislative Analyst

LD 312 – An Act To Extend the Use of Maine Bicentennial Registration Plates through 2021

SUMMARY: This bill allows the sale, distribution and display of a commemorative vehicle registration plate celebrating the State's bicentennial until December 31, 2021.

This bill is an emergency, requiring the affirmative vote of 2/3 of all the elected members to pass and effective immediately upon passage.

TESTIMONY:

<p>Proponents: <i>Sen. Claxton</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Extending the use of his Bicentennial plates through 2021 would allow people to celebrate the state's 200th birthdate in a way that wasn't possible during the previous year.• The sponsor supports proposed amended language offered by BMV	<p>Neither for Nor Against: <i>Bureau of Motor Vehicles</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• BMV – Proposed Amendment: Language in the bill articulates that the expiration must be printed on the registration plate. As the bureau contemplated 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 in stock displaying the 2020 expiration date. The bureau believes that the solution could be as simple as striking the requirement to print the expiration date on the plate and adding a statement about previously issued plates with an expiration date of December 31, 2020. <p><i>**See testimony from BMV showing proposed amended language.</i></p>
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CURRENT STATUTE OR LAW:

A bicentennial plate may be displayed from January 1st to December 31st of the year celebrated. (29-A MRS §454)

FISCAL IMPACT:

No preliminary fiscal information available at the time of writing.

Stephen Ashcroft
Bureau of Motor Vehicles

Below are the current statistics regarding the sale of the Bicentennial plates as of now.

FY18	1609	\$14,481	\$25,744
FY19	1613	\$14,517	\$25,808
FY20	1482	\$13,338	\$23,712
FY21*	304	\$2,736	\$4,864
Totals	5008	\$45,072	\$80,128
Grand Total collected			\$125,200

*FY 21 Thru Dec 2020