



Department of the Secretary of State Bureau of Motor Vehicles

Matthew Dunlap
Secretary of State

Patty A. Morneault
Deputy Secretary of State

Stephen P. Ashcroft
Director of Vehicle Services

April 9, 2020

To: All Maine Law Enforcement
Re: Clarification on the Registration Waiver letter

On March 23, 2020, Governor Mills signed and put into effect an Executive Order extending compliance dates under certain motor vehicle laws. Part of that order provided the Secretary of State the authority to stay the requirement to register after the transfer of title or ownership of vehicles, which also included trailers.

As a result, on March 27, 2020, I issued a waiver for that particular purpose that was widely distributed to all municipalities and law enforcement. Since that time, there have been some questions regarding the scope of this waiver. Please find below some guidance and clarification on some of the questions that have arisen.

Q. Does the vehicle have to have been purchased or transferred during the state of emergency?

A. Yes. Initially, we had hoped for some sort of flexibility regarding this, but it appears now that there are some unintended consequences and taking of advantage that have presented themselves. So, we are now sticking to the scope of the Executive Order which is that the vehicle must be purchased or transferred during the state of emergency.

Q. Does the vehicle have to be purchased in Maine?

A. It does not. It is irrelevant where the vehicle is purchased for the purposes of the waiver. Many people have been purchasing vehicles in other states and bringing them back. The waiver is for the need to register no matter where you bought it.

Q. What must be carried in the vehicle?

A. The driver must have, along with the waiver, the bill of sale, title with the transfer signature on it (if available) and any other identifying documents that provide LE evidence of the sale or ownership. Please use some discretion on this because it may be different in many circumstances.

Q. Can someone transfer the plate from an older vehicle onto the new vehicle until they can register?

A. No. The waiver allows operation without a certificate of registration and plates. Displaying plates assigned to another vehicle would constitute a separate crime and is not covered by the waiver.

I hope this helps and we understand the shortcomings and loopholes with this approach but in these unprecedented times, it is the tool that we have been given. There will be many questions still, but please understand the intent of this waiver and use your discretion.

Respectfully,



Stephen Ash

Stephen P. Ashcroft
Director of Vehicle Services
Bureau of Motor Vehicles
29 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0029
stephen.ashcroft@maine.gov

101 Hospital Street, 29 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333-0029
(207) 624-9000 ext. 52151 TTYusers call Maine relay 711