



**Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management**  
**Bureau of Veterans' Services**  
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 Augusta, Maine 04333-0117

**Department of the Secretary of State**  
**Bureau of Motor Vehicles**  
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 (207) 430-6000

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 (207) 287-7020

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 Secretary of State  
 (207) 626-8400

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 Deputy Secretary of  
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November 28, 2023

**Motor Vehicle Excise Tax Exemption for Certain Veterans – 36 M.R.S. § 1483(12)**

Dear municipalities and partners of the State of Maine,

Certain veterans qualify for an excise tax exemption for a vehicle or vehicles they register. The Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) and the Maine Bureau of Veterans' Services (MBVS) have discovered that many veterans prefer to retain a special veteran's plate or another type of registration plate rather than switch to a disabled veteran's plate to receive the excise tax exemption. Under the current Municipal BMV Data Transfer System, the exemption is not allowed without registering the vehicle with a disabled veteran plate. The BMV is working on statutory and computer system changes that will allow this in the future; however, until that is implemented, we have partnered together to develop an interim solution that best serves veterans wishing to benefit from the exemption.

Under [36 M.R.S. § 1483\(12\)](#), veterans who are otherwise eligible for the exemption are authorized regardless of whether they have a disabled veteran's plate. It is important to note that a veteran must pay the regular associated registration fee if they choose a different registration plate. However, the excise tax exemption is authorized if they meet the eligibility requirements. It can be confusing when determining eligibility. For instance, it is possible for a veteran to be rated at 70% for service-connected disabilities but, due to Individual Unemployability, be paid at 100% and considered 100% permanently and totally disabled. Department of Veterans Affairs Benefits Summary letters can be difficult to understand and are not clearly written.

MBVS can assist in determining eligibility for motor vehicle excise tax exemption for certain veterans, specifically helping understand service-connected disability rating as outlined in [36 M.R.S. § 1483\(12\)](#). This would require the veteran to provide proof of “total, service-connected disability” in the form of a current Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Benefit Summary letter.

Benefits Summary are provided to the veteran in the springtime by the VA or at any time from [www.ebenefits.va.gov](http://www.ebenefits.va.gov) or by calling 800-827-1000. MBVS may also have access to the Benefits Summary letter for certain veterans.

**For assistance from the MBVS, please contact our closest office:**

- Augusta – 207-287-7020
  - F: 207-626-4471
- Bangor – 207-941-3005
  - F: 207-941-3012
- Caribou – 207-492-1173
  - F: 207-492-1175
- Lewiston – 207-753-9106
  - F: 207-783-5307
- Machias – 207-255-3306
  - F: 207-255-4815
- Portland – 207-822-2391
  - F: 207-822-2393
- Springvale – 207-324-1839
  - F: 207-324-2763
- Togus – 207-287-7019
  - F: 207-287-8449

For information on licensing or vehicle registration, visit <https://www.maine.gov/sos/bmv/>.

Sincerely,



Douglas Farnham  
Major General  
Commissioner



Shenna Bellows  
Secretary of State  
Department of the Secretary of State



David A. Richmond  
Director  
Maine Bureau of Veterans' Services



Catherine Curtis  
Deputy Secretary of State  
Bureau of Motor Vehicles  
Department of the Secretary of State

For veterans in **crisis, please call 988, then press 1**. For veterans who are experiencing homelessness, please connect them with our Homeless Veterans Coordination Team at 207-287-7019 or [HVC.MaineBVS@maine.gov](mailto:HVC.MaineBVS@maine.gov).