VEHICLE REGISTRATION FEES

**LEGISLATOR NOTICE**

The Legislative Services Division is required to offer a brief history on the subject matter of a bill draft request prior to drafting (5-4-105, MCA; Chapter 309, Laws of 2017). The history must include related legislation introduced over the last five sessions and hyperlinks to the bill, hearing information, and fiscal notes. The legislation links below open to the page showing the status and history of bills introduced on this topic in the past. The bill text and any related fiscal notes can be accessed through the link at the top of that page.

Legislation can be complex and this history is not intended to be exhaustive. Please contact the drafter of the requested bill for more information.

**Background Materials and Research**

**Topic Summary:** State law requires a Montana resident to register all motor vehicles, trailers, semitrailers, pole trailers, and travel trailers to operate on Montana’s public highways. This registration is displayed as a license plate. The Department of Justice’s Motor Vehicle Division assess an annual fee for registration, which is collected by county treasurers or authorized agents. The department assesses additional fees for personalized or specialty license plates. Light vehicles may be permanently registered. Most of the fees go into the state’s general fund. However, in recent sessions these registration fees have been identified as funding sources for specific programs, such as state parks maintenance, off-highway vehicle trails, snowmobile trails, boating facilities, veterans’ services, and search and rescue.

**Legislative Services Division Materials:**

Revenue and Transportation Interim Committee, [DOJ History in Highway State Special Revenue Account](#) (2015)

**Other Materials:**

Motor Vehicle Division [webpage](#) on registration and fees

**Introduced Legislation**

2017

House Bill 144 – Chapter number assigned. AN ACT GENERALLY REVISING MOTOR VEHICLE LAWS; REVISING DRIVER’S LICENSE REQUIREMENTS AND DEALER LICENSE REQUIREMENTS; REVISING ISSUANCE OF DISABILITY PLACARDS AND REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE TO ADOPT RULES RELATING
TO ISSUANCE OF DISABILITY PLACARDS; REQUIRING STAGGERED TERMS FOR MOTOR VEHICLE
DEALER LICENSES; REVISING DRIVER RECORDS AND DRIVER’S LICENSE SUSPENSION AND
REVOCATION LAWS; REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE TO ADOPT RULES GOVERNING THE
DESTRUCTION OF DRIVER RECORDS; PROVIDING FOR LEARNER LICENSES AND REPLACING CERTAIN
PERMITS WITH LEARNER LICENSES; REVISING REQUIREMENTS FOR OPERATING A VEHICLE OVER
RAILROAD CROSSINGS; CLARIFYING PENALTIES FOR CERTAIN COMMERCIAL MOTOR VEHICLE
VIOLATIONS; REVISING TESTING FOR A CHARGE OF AGGRAVATED DUI; REVISING DEFINITIONS FOR
CERTAIN MOTOR VEHICLES; IMPOSING A FEE FOR ISSUANCE OF A DECAL FOR CERTAIN OUT-OF-
STATE VEHICLES REGISTERED IN MONTANA AND PROVIDING FOR DISPOSITION OF THE FEE;
CLARIFYING CERTAIN MOTOR VEHICLE WEIGHT LIMITS; PROVIDING RULEMAKING AUTHORITY;
AMENDING SECTIONS.

HB 170 – (H) Died in standing committee. AN ACT REDUCING VEHICLE REGISTRATION FEES FOR SENIORS
OVER 65; PROVIDING RULEMAKING AUTHORITY; AND AMENDING SECTION 61-3-321, MCA.

HB 196 – (H) Died in standing committee. AN ACT IMPOSING A FEE ON CERTAIN VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS
TO SUPPORT VOLUNTEER EMERGENCY RESPONSE; ESTABLISHING PROCEDURES FOR DISTRIBUTING
REVENUE RAISED BY THE FEE; CREATING A SPECIAL REVENUE ACCOUNT; REQUIRING A REPORT;
AMENDING SECTIONS 15-1-122 AND 61-3-321, MCA.

HB 205 – (H) Vetoed by governor. AN ACT REVISING LAWS RELATED TO REVENUE SOURCES FOR HIGHWAY
FUNDING; PROVIDING FOR AN ANNUAL ELECTRIC VEHICLE FEE TO BE DEPOSITED IN THE HIGHWAY
STATE SPECIAL REVENUE ACCOUNT; PROVIDING FOR A TAX ON LIQUEFIED NATURAL GAS PLACED
INTO THE SUPPLY TANK OF A MOTOR VEHICLE; REVISING THE TAX ON COMPRESSED NATURAL GAS
AND LIQUEFIED PETROLEUM GAS PLACED INTO THE SUPPLY TANK OF A MOTOR VEHICLE;
AMENDING SECTIONS.

HB 213 – Chapter number assigned. AN ACT ALLOWING DISPLAY OF A SINGLE LICENSE PLATE ON CERTAIN
MOTOR VEHICLES; PROVIDING FOR ISSUANCE OF A WAIVER OF THE REQUIREMENT THAT A FRONT
LICENSE PLATE BE DISPLAYED AFTER AN INSPECTION AND PAYMENT OF AN INSPECTION FEE;
REQUIRING THE CERTIFICATE OF WAIVER TO BE CARRIED IN THE MOTOR VEHICLE; REQUIRING
MONEY COLLECTED FROM THE FEE TO BE DEPOSITED IN THE HIGHWAY SPECIAL REVENUE
ACCOUNT; AND AMENDING SECTION 61-3-301, MCA.

HB 217 – (H) Veto override failed in legislature. AN ACT REVISING THE REPLACEMENT SCHEDULE FOR
STANDARD LICENSE PLATE; ALLOWING CERTAIN VEHICLE OWNERS TO RETAIN A LICENSE PLATE
NUMBER; AMENDING SECTIONS 61-3-315, 61-3-321, AND 61-3-332, MCA.

HB 225 – Chapter number assigned. AN ACT REVISING THE MONTANA FOOTPATH AND BICYCLE TRAIL ACT
OF 1975; PROVIDING FOR THE MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR OF SHARED-USE PATHS, INCLUDING THE
STRUCTURES AND PROCESSES NECESSARY FOR BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN SAFETY EDUCATION;
PROVIDING FOR AND ALLOCATING THE REVENUE FROM AN OPTIONAL FEE ON MOTOR VEHICLE
REGISTRATION TO BE USED FOR MAINTAINING, REPAIRING, AND ESTABLISHING SHARED-USE PATHS
AND FOR SAFETY EDUCATION; PROVIDING A STATUTORY APPROPRIATION; AMENDING SECTIONS 17-
7-502, 60-3-301, 60-3-302, 60-3-303, 60-3-304, 61-3-321, AND 61-3-509, MCA
HB 484 – (H) Died in standing committee. AN ACT INCREASING THE MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION OPTIONAL FEE FOR OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE AT STATE PARKS, FISHING ACCESS SITES, AND STATE-OWNED FACILITIES AT VIRGINIA CITY AND NEVADA CITY; AMENDING SECTION 61-3-321, MCA.

HB 621 – (H) Died in process. AN ACT ASSESSING AN ADDITIONAL FEE ON THE REGISTRATION OF MOTOR HOMES, TRAVEL TRAILERS, MOTORCYCLES, AND QUADRICYCLES TO BENEFIT STATE PARKS, FISHING ACCESS SITES, AND CERTAIN STATE-OWNED FACILITIES; AMENDING SECTIONS 23-1-105 AND 61-3-321, MCA.

HB 640 – (H) Died in standing committee. AN ACT GENERALLY REVISING TAXATION; REPEALING INDIVIDUAL INCOME TAXES AND CORPORATE INCOME TAXES; ENACTING A GENERAL STATEWIDE SALES TAX AND USE TAX; AUTHORIZING THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE TO ENTER INTO THE STREAMLINED SALES TAX AND USE TAX AGREEMENT; IMPLEMENTING APPROPRIATE PROVISIONS OF THE STREAMLINED SALES TAX AND USE TAX AGREEMENT; ALLOWING VARIOUS SALES TAX AND USE TAX EXEMPTIONS; ELIMINATING THE STATEWIDE 40-MILL LEVY FOR SCHOOL FUNDING; ELIMINATING CERTAIN MOTOR VEHICLE FEES; PROVIDING FOR A ONE-TIME REGISTRATION FEE OF $50 FOR CERTAIN VEHICLES; PROVIDING RULEMAKING AUTHORITY; AMENDING VARIOUS SECTIONS; REPEALING VARIOUS SECTIONS.

Senate Bill 57 – Chapter number assigned. AN ACT CLARIFYING FUNDING SOURCES FOR THE HIGHWAY PATROL; PROVIDING FOR AN INCREASE IN CERTAIN VEHICLE REGISTRATION FEES; AMENDING SECTIONS 44-1-501, 44-1-504, AND 61-3-321, MCA.

SB 161 – (S) Died in standing committee. AN ACT REVISION THE COLLECTION OF THE FEE TO BE USED FOR STATE PARKS, FISHING ACCESS SITES, AND STATE-OWNED PROPERTIES UPON REGISTRATION OF A MOTOR VEHICLE; PROVIDING THAT A PERSON MAY ELECT TO PAY, RATHER THAN ELECT NOT TO PAY, THE FEE; INCREASING THE FEE FROM $6 TO $25 AND ADJUSTING PROPORTIONALLY THE AMOUNTS TO BE USED FOR VARIOUS PURPOSES; AMENDING SECTION 61-3-321, MCA.

SB 322 – (S) Died in standing committee. AN ACT REVISITING ELIGIBILITY FOR VETERANS' MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION FEE AND CEMETARY FEE WAIVERS; REMOVING THE PROVISION THAT IN ORDER TO QUALIFY FOR A FEE WAIVER, A VETERAN WHO IS DETERMINED TO BE 50% OR MORE DISABLED MUST ALSO HAVE BEEN AWARDED THE PURPLE HEART; AND AMENDING SECTION 61-3-460, MCA.

SB 334 – (S) Died in standing committee. AN ACT ALLOWING FOR PERMANENT REGISTRATION OF CERTAIN TRUCKS OVER 1 TON RATED CAPACITY AND CERTAIN TRUCK TRACTORS; EXTENDING RULEMAKING AUTHORITY; AMENDING SECTIONS 15-8-202, 61-3-303, 61-3-321, 61-3-332, 61-3-506, 61-3-537, 61-3-562, AND 61-6-158, MCA.

2015

HB 104 – (S) Died in standing committee. AN ACT INCREASING THE FEE FOR LICENSE PLATES ISSUED FOR EACH PROPORTIONATELY REGISTERED MOTOR VEHICLE, TRAILER, SEMITRAILER, OR POLE TRAILER; CLARIFYING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION'S AUTHORITY TO REGISTER CERTAIN VEHICLES; DEFINING THE TERM "DEVICE"; AMENDING SECTIONS 61-3-702, 61-3-722, 61-4-307, AND 61-10-130, MCA.
HB 167 – Chapter number assigned. AN ACT REVISING LAWS RELATED TO OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE NONRESIDENT TEMPORARY-USE PERMITS; INCREASING THE NONRESIDENT TEMPORARY-USE PERMIT FEE FOR OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLES; REQUIRING A NONRESIDENT TEMPORARY-USE PERMIT FOR ALL OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLES OWNED BY NONRESIDENTS; REQUIRING THAT MONEY COLLECTED FROM THE FEE BE USED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE, AND PARKS FOR CERTAIN PURPOSES; AND AMENDING SECTIONS 23-2-802 AND 23-2-814, MCA.

HB 246 – Chapter number assigned. AN ACT REQUIRING THAT CERTAIN FEES COLLECTED FOR OVERSIZE OR OVERWEIGHT LOAD PERMITS BE FORWARDED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR DEPOSIT IN THE HIGHWAY NONRESTRICTED ACCOUNT; AMENDING SECTION 61-10-126, MCA.

HB 307 – (H) Missed deadline for revenue bill transmittal. AN ACT REDUCING SPECIAL FEES ON CERTAIN MOTORTRUCKS USED IN THE TRANSPORTATION OF TIMBER OWNED BY THE OPERATOR OF THE MOTORTRUCK; AMENDING SECTION 61-10-206, MCA.


HB 599 – (H) Veto override failed in legislature. AN ACT ALLOWING FOR PERMANENT REGISTRATION OF CERTAIN TRUCKS OVER 1 TON RATED CAPACITY AND CERTAIN TRUCK TRACTORS; EXTENDING RULEMAKING AUTHORITY; AMENDING SECTIONS 15-8-202, 61-3-303, 61-3-321, 61-3-332, 61-3-506, 61-3-537, 61-3-562, AND 61-6-158, MCA.

HB 628 – (H) Veto override failed in legislature. AN ACT REVISING THE REPLACEMENT SCHEDULE FOR STANDARD LICENSE PLATES; ALLOWING CERTAIN VEHICLE OWNERS TO RETAIN A LICENSE PLATE NUMBER; AMENDING SECTIONS 61-3-315, 61-3-321, AND 61-3-332, MCA.

2013

HB 216 – (S) Died in standing committee. AN ACT REQUIRING A LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORIZED TO ISSUE CERTAIN PERMITS FOR OVERSIZED AND OVERWEIGHT VEHICLES TO RETAIN THE FEES IMPOSED FOR THE PERMITS FOR DEPOSIT INTO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT'S ROAD FUND; AMENDING SECTIONS 61-10-109, 61-10-121, AND 61-10-126, MCA.

HB 559 – Chapter number assigned. AN ACT GENERALLY REVISING MOTOR VEHICLE LAWS; MODIFYING DATE RESTRICTIONS ON THE CONTINUED USE OF STANDARD LICENSE PLATE DESIGNS OR PLATE NUMBERS; ELIMINATING THE COUNTY PREFIX REQUIREMENTS FOR SMALL LICENSE PLATES; REMOVING COLLEGIATE LICENSE PLATES AND GENERIC SPECIALTY LICENSE PLATES FROM PERMANENT REGISTRATION RESTRICTIONS ON CERTAIN VEHICLES; CLARIFYING CERTAIN SPEEDING OFFENSES AND PENALTIES; ELIMINATING THE REQUIREMENT TO PROVIDE A LIST OF AMATEUR
RADIO LICENSE PLATE HOLDERS TO CERTAIN AGENCIES; AMENDING SECTIONS 61-3-321, 61-3-332, 61-3-337, 61-3-562, 61-8-303, 61-8-309, 61-8-310, AND 61-8-725, MCA; REPEALING SECTION 61-3-424, MCA.

HB 573 – (S) Died in process. AN ACT GENERALLY REVISING MOTOR VEHICLE LAWS; ALLOWING FOR HIGHWAY USE OF UTILITY VEHICLES; PERMITTING TEMPORARY REGISTRATION FOR HIGHWAY USE OF CERTAIN QUADRICYCLES AND UTILITY VEHICLES OWNED BY NONRESIDENTS; REQUIRING TITLING OF MOTORCYCLES, QUADRICYCLES, AND UTILITY VEHICLES OPERATED ON PRIVATE PROPERTY; ALLOWING SPECIAL MILITARY OR VETERAN LICENSE PLATES TO BE USED FOR QUADRICYCLES REGISTERED FOR HIGHWAY USE; AMENDING SECTIONS.

HB 597 – (H) Died in standing committee. AN ACT WAIVING 50% OF REGISTRATION FEES FOR MOTOR VEHICLES OWNED BY CERTAIN DISABLED INDIVIDUALS; AMENDING SECTIONS 61-3-321 AND 61-3-455, MCA.

SB 114 – (S) Vetoed by the governor. AN ACT MAINTAINING THE SAME YEARLONG REGISTRATION PERIOD AFTER THE TRANSFER OF A VEHICLE TO A SUBSEQUENT OWNER; AMENDING SECTIONS 61-3-311 AND 61-3-317, MCA.

SB 166 – (S) Died in process. AN ACT WAIVING MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION FEES FOR CERTAIN DISABLED PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS AND FIREFIGHTERS; REQUIRING THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO ASSIST IN IMPLEMENTING THE FEE WAIVER FOR PURPLE HEART-TYPE AWARDS AND TO PROVIDE GUIDANCE TO PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICER'S OR FIREFIGHTER'S ORGANIZATIONS; PROVIDING RULEMAKING AUTHORITY; AMENDING SECTIONS 61-3-321 AND 61-3-455, MCA.

2011

HB 370 – Chapter number assigned. AN ACT INCREASING THE OPTIONAL MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION FEE FOR OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE AT STATE PARKS AND STATE-OWNED FACILITIES AT VIRGINIA CITY AND NEVADA CITY; REVISING THE OPTIONAL MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION FEE PROCESS; AMENDING SECTIONS 23-1-105 AND 61-3-321, MCA.

HB 375 – (H) Veto override failed in legislature. AN ACT REVISING TRANSFERS FROM THE STATE GENERAL FUND; REDUCING TRANSFERS TO CERTAIN ACCOUNTS, ENTITIES, AND RECIPIENTS; AMENDING SECTION 15-1-122, MCA.

HB 636 – (S) Died in standing committee. AN ACT GENERALLY REVISING MOTOR VEHICLE LAWS; ALLOWING FOR THE OPERATION OF LOW-SPEED ELECTRIC VEHICLES; ALLOWING FOR HIGHWAY USE OF UTILITY VEHICLES; PROVIDING FOR A PILOT PROGRAM TO ALLOW FOR EXPEDITED VEHICLE TITLE SERVICES FOR A FEE; PERMITTING TEMPORARY REGISTRATION FOR HIGHWAY USE OF CERTAIN QUADRICYCLES AND UTILITY VEHICLES OWNED BY NONRESIDENTS; REQUIRING TITLING OF MOTORCYCLES, QUADRICYCLES, AND UTILITY VEHICLES OPERATED ON PRIVATE PROPERTY; ALLOWING SPECIAL MILITARY OR VETERAN LICENSE PLATES TO BE USED FOR QUADRICYCLES REGISTERED FOR HIGHWAY USE; GRANTING RULEMAKING AUTHORITY TO TITLE AND REGISTER CERTAIN VESSELS OWNED BY NONRESIDENTS; CLARIFYING REQUIREMENTS FOR ANATOMICAL GIFT DONATIONS DESIGNATIONS ON A DRIVER'S LICENSE AND IDENTIFICATION CARD; AMENDING SECTIONS.
**SB 13** – (S) Died in process. An act providing that a person who registers a light vehicle may elect to pay, rather than elect to not pay, an additional fee of $4.25 to be used for state parks, for fishing access sites, and for the operation of state-owned facilities; amending section 61-3-321, MCA.

**2009**

**HB 29** – (H) Died in standing committee. An act increasing the amount of money transferred to the senior citizens and persons with disabilities transportation services account from motor vehicle revenue deposited in the state general fund; amending section 15-1-122, MCA.

**HB 187** – (S) Died in standing committee. An act maintaining the same year-long registration period after the transfer of a vehicle to a subsequent owner; amending sections 61-3-311 and 61-3-317, MCA.

**HB 271** – (H) Died in standing committee. An act exempting Montana highway patrol officers from fees charged for license plate issuance, replacement, or transfer; amending sections 61-3-321, 61-3-333, 61-3-406, 61-3-412, 61-3-415, 61-3-422, 61-3-459, 61-3-465, 61-3-480, and 61-3-562, MCA.

**HB 306** – Chapter number assigned. An act requiring the department of justice to design and issue special motorcycle license plates for military personnel, veterans, and spouses; requiring the donation for a plate to be deposited into the special revenue account for the state veterans' cemeteries; amending sections 61-3-455 and 61-3-458, MCA.

**SB 175** – (S) Died in standing committee. An act providing that certain permanently registered vehicles are not subject to reregistration upon transfer of ownership; amending sections 23-2-511, 23-2-515, 23-2-616, 23-2-621, 61-3-303, 61-3-313, 61-3-321, 61-3-322, 61-3-332, and 61-3-411, MCA.

**SB 329** – (S) Died in standing committee. An act generally revising laws governing motor vehicle registration and motor vehicle liability insurance; requiring that motor vehicles display only one official license plate; eliminating all special, military, collegiate, and generic specialty license plates, except amateur radio operator plates, plates issued to persons with disabilities and disabled veterans, and fleet vehicle plates; allowing for placement of special military and other sponsoring organization decals designed by and supporting certain organizations; requiring color-coded registration decals for license plates; requiring county designation decals for certain license plates; requiring issuance and display of a license plate decal showing proof of insurance and providing penalties; amending sections.

**SB 443** – (S) Died in standing committee. An act eliminating the authority of the department of justice to revoke the approval of a generic specialty license plate if fewer than 400 sets of the plate have been sold or renewed in the 12 months prior to the third anniversary of the initial distribution of the plate; and amending section 61-3-474, MCA.
SB 508 – Chapter number assigned. AN ACT REVISING MOTOR VEHICLE LAWS; CREATING AN ONLINE MOTOR VEHICLE LIABILITY INSURANCE VERIFICATION SYSTEM; PROVIDING FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT USE OF THE SYSTEM; PROVIDING FOR A CONTRACT BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AND MONTANA CORRECTIONAL ENTERPRISES TO MANUFACTURE AND DISTRIBUTE LICENSE PLATES; CREATING A VEHICLE INSURANCE VERIFICATION AND LICENSE PLATE OPERATING ACCOUNT; CREATING A LICENSE PLATE PRODUCTION OPERATING ACCOUNT; ALLOWING INSURERS TO PROVIDE CERTAIN INFORMATION TO BE USED IN THE SYSTEM; REQUIRING THAT A VEHICLE OWNER COMPLY WITH MANDATORY MOTOR VEHICLE LIABILITY INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS BEFORE REGISTERING OR RENEWING REGISTRATION FOR A VEHICLE; PROVIDING FOR THE DEPOSIT OF CERTAIN FEES IN THE OPERATING ACCOUNTS; REVISING CERTAIN LICENSE PLATE FEES; REQUIRING REPLACEMENT OF LICENSE PLATES THAT ARE A CERTAIN AGE OR OLDER; ALLOWING PERSONALIZED LICENSE PLATES TO BE ISSUED FOR SPECIAL MILITARY PLATES; REVISING PROVISIONS FOR THE GENERIC SPECIALTY LICENSE PLATE SPONSOR FEE; GRANTING THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE RULEMAKING AUTHORITY TO ADMINISTER THE ONLINE MOTOR VEHICLE LIABILITY INSURANCE VERIFICATION SYSTEM, THE REISSUANCE OF LICENSE PLATES, AND THE CONTRACT WITH MONTANA CORRECTIONAL ENTERPRISES; ALLOWING THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE TO SET CERTAIN REINSTATEMENT FEES; REVISING LAWS GOVERNING PLACEMENT OF TAIL LAMPS; AMENDING SECTIONS; REPEALING SECTION 61-6-106, MCA.

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