

HCS HB 1582 -- MOTOR VEHICLE LICENSING

SPONSOR: Crawford (Schlottach)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Transportation and Motor Vehicles by a vote of 18 to 1 with 1 present.

This substitute revises the laws regarding motor vehicle registration fees and the reissuance of license plates. It also establishes a procedure to streamline the creation of special license plates.

SPECIAL LICENSE PLATES

The substitute gives the Joint Committee on Transportation Oversight the duty of approving or denying a special license plate application submitted by the Department of Revenue.

The number of characters allowed on personalized plates is increased from six to seven, and the personalization fee is increased from \$15 to \$25.

The substitute removes the special license plate exemption which allows organizations to forego the 100-applicant requirement by paying for the actual cost of the initial issuance.

Organizations, except those seeking a special military license plate, must submit an application to the department which:

- (1) Describes the proposed license plate;
- (2) Has at least one current member of the General Assembly as a sponsor;
- (3) Includes a list of at least 100 potential applicants; and
- (4) Includes an application fee, not to exceed \$5,000, to defray the department's cost for reviewing the application and developing the specialty license plate.

All moneys received by the department, excluding the special license plate fee, will be deposited in the Department of Revenue Specialty Plate Fund. The State Treasurer will be the custodian of the fund and will make disbursements for personal services, expenses, and equipment required to prepare, review, develop, and disseminate a new specialty plate and process the initial 100 applications. If the application is not approved by the joint committee, the State Treasurer will refund any deposits for that specialty plate. The disposition of the fund at the end of the

year is specified.

The required documents and fees must be submitted to the department by July 1 prior to the next regular session of the General Assembly in order to be approved by the joint committee. If the special license plate application is approved, the sponsoring organization must submit the proposed art work to the department no later than 60 days after the approval. If the joint committee denies the application, 97% of the application fee will be refunded to the organization along with all submitted fees. The department must begin production and distribution of the new special license plates within one year after approval. The department is authorized to discontinue issuance of special license plates if the organization no longer provides services or has stopped issuing emblem-use authorization statements.

Any person or organization who receives a notice of denial for a special license plate may request a hearing to review the joint committee's decision within 15 days of receiving the notice.

The fee for all specialty license plates, except special military license plates, will be \$25 annually and \$50 biennially in addition to the regular registration fees. No additional fee will be charged for personalized specialty plates.

DELINQUENT REGISTRATIONS

Beginning January 1, 2007, a \$5 penalty per month, up to a maximum of \$20, will be imposed for delinquent registrations.

ANNUAL REGISTRATION FEES

The substitute revises the laws regarding the annual registration fees on passenger motor vehicles by removing all references to horse power ratings and charging a uniform fee of \$29.75. The substitute also removes references from Sections 301.057 and 301.058, RSMo, relating to commercial motor vehicles having a gross weight of 12,000 or less and describes the vehicles as trucks having a gross weight of 12,000 pounds or less and imposes the uniform fee of \$29.75 on the vehicles. The registration receipt must be carried in the motor vehicle at all times.

TRAILER REGISTRATION

Trailers and semitrailers will have a one-time registration fee of \$50 or an annual fee of \$10. Cars, sport utility vehicles, and pickup trucks pulling trailers will pay an annual towing permit fee of \$25 and receive a sticker which must be displayed in the vehicle's front window. The department may issue the trailer sticker and the window sticker at the time of issuance or

renewal of registration.

LICENSE TABS AND WINDOW STICKERS

Beginning January 1, 2008, the department instead of correctional enterprises of the Department of Corrections will produce tabs on demand. Tabs and window stickers will be issued when a vehicle is registered.

REISSUANCE OF LICENSE PLATES

Beginning January 1, 2006, and every four years thereafter, the Department of Revenue will issue new license plates. The department may charge a fee, up to \$2.25, to cover the cost of reissuance. The fees to cover the cost of reissuance may be assessed every four years and increased based on inflation, but will not be higher than the actual cost of reissuance.

The substitute has an effective date of January 1, 2005, for the portions of the substitute relating to procedures for obtaining special license plates, and January 1, 2006, for the portions of the substitute relating to delinquency penalty fees, tabs, window stickers, motor vehicle and trailer registration procedures and reissuance of plates.

FISCAL NOTE: Not available at time of printing.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that Missouri's motor vehicle registration process has not been updated and has not kept pace with other states. The bill will help upgrade Missouri's licensing system, generate much needed revenue, and expedite the special license plate issuance which will save the General Assembly valuable time.

Testifying for the bill was Representative Schlottach.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Robert Triplett, Legislative Analyst