

SPONSOR: Perkins

This bill creates the "License Office Distribution Fund", which consists of certain moneys collected by motor vehicle registration fee offices, and used solely for the purposes specified in the bill. Beginning after December 31, 2024, but no later than February 15, 2025, equal quarterly disbursements will be made from the Fund to the fee offices awarded contracts under this section, except as provided in the bill.

The bill increases the following fees authorized to be charged by motor vehicle registration offices:

- (1) A motor vehicle or trailer registration issued, renewed or transferred, increases from \$6 to \$9; and a license sold or biennially renewed, increases from \$12 to \$18;
- (2) An application or transfer of title, increases from \$6 to \$9;
- (3) An instruction permit, nondriver license, chauffeur's, operator's, or driver's license issued for a period of three years or less, increases from \$6 to \$9; and a license or instruction permit issued or renewed for a period exceeding three years, increases from \$12 to \$18; and
- (4) A notice of lien processed, increases from \$6 to \$9.

From each of these fee increases collected by contract fee offices, \$1 will be remitted to the License Office Distribution Fund. Money distributed to this Fund will be held in trust for the entities awarded fee contracts and will not be considered state revenue. If a court issues a final judgment that this remitted money is state revenue, this subsection will be null and void.

The bill also prohibits a fee office contract from being awarded to any entity affiliated in any manner with a current employee of the Department of Revenue or with a former employee for the one-year period following a former employee's termination.

All fees authorized and collected by contract fee offices may be retained and used by the entity operating the contract fee office, and all fees authorized and collected by fee offices operated by the Department of Revenue will be considered state revenue. The authorized fees may be collected by all contract fee offices and must be collected by all offices operated by the Department of Revenue.

The bill also specifies that the application for a Missouri Conservation Heritage Foundation emblem license plate and payment of the \$25 contribution may be made at the time of registration to the Director of the Department of Revenue, who must deposit the contribution to the credit of the Missouri Conservation Heritage Foundation.

This bill is similar to HCS HB 424 (2023).