

## HCS HB 775 -- MOTOR VEHICLE LICENSING

SPONSOR: Bromley

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Transportation by a vote of 16 to 0, with 2 voting Present. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules-Administrative by a vote of 9 to 0.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HB 775.

### VEHICLE REGISTRATION COSTS (Sections 301.055, 301.140, and 301.070)

This bill modifies the provisions relating to motor vehicle licensing. Currently, the vehicle registration fee for vehicles other than commercial vehicles is based on the vehicle's horsepower.

The bill sets a single fee for all noncommercial motor vehicles at \$25 and a registration fee for motorcycles, motor tricycles, and autocycles at \$10. Both fees include the railroad crossing safety fee. References to vehicle horsepower are removed.

### ALTERNATIVE FUEL DECALS (Section 301.110)

This bill allows the Department of Revenue (DOR) to stagger the collection of alternative fuel decal fees and issuance of the decals so that the issuance occurs at the time of vehicle registration and the decals are valid for the duration of the vehicle's registration period.

The bill allows the Director to issue a receipt showing payment of the alternative fuel decal fee instead of issuing a decal.

### LICENSE PLATE COVERS (Section 301.130)

Currently, a license plate can be encased in a transparent cover as long as the plate is visible and its reflective qualities are not impaired. This bill adds that the license plate cover be nontinted and the license plate frame must not cover any information necessary for law enforcement purposes.

### TEMPORARY VEHICLE PERMITS (Section 301.140)

Currently, dealers selling certain vehicles subject to liens may issue a temporary permit for the vehicle that lasts 90 days instead of the standard 30 days. This bill removes the 90 day temporary

permits and requires dealers to obtain proof of sales tax payment before issuing any temporary permit.

#### DISABLED PLACARDS AND PLACARDS (Section 301.142)

The bill adds occupational therapists to the list of licensed professionals who can issue a statement so that disabled plates or a disabled windshield placard can be obtained by a patient.

The bill increases the renewal period for removable windshield disability placards from four years to eight years and requires DOR to automatically renew current valid disabled placards for eight years or for the duration that correlates with the disabled person's current physician's statement expiration date, until all permanent disabled placards are on an eight-year renewal cycle.

#### SPECIALTY LICENSE PLATES (Sections 301.448, 301.469, 301.3181, and 301.3182.)

Currently, members of the Armed Forces and Reserves may apply for and receive specialty license plates denoting their service. This bill extends the licenses to include the Space Force.

The bill provides 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 creates special vehicle license plates for veterans who served in Afghanistan and Iraq.

The bill specifies that any person who was awarded the Afghanistan Campaign medal and the Iraq Campaign medal, and is either currently serving or honorably discharged, can apply for the plates with the words "AFGHANISTAN & IRAQ VETERAN" by providing proof of service and paying a \$15 fee. The plates can be personalized at no extra cost. A person who was awarded the Afghanistan Campaign medal can apply for a license plate with the words "AFGHANISTAN VETERAN".

This bill states that there is no limit on the number of such plates a person can obtain, as long as he or she owns the vehicle, and that the plates are not transferable to anyone.

#### TRAILERS AND TRAILER DEALERS (Section 301.558)

Currently, motor vehicle dealers, boat dealers, and powersport dealers are allowed to fill in blanks on standardized forms as long

as they do not charge for the service. Further, they may charge administration fees in connection to leasing or selling motor vehicles, vessels, and vessel trailers for the storage of documents and certain clerical work without being charged for the unauthorized practice of law.

This bill adds "tractors" and "tractor dealers" to these provisions. The bill changes the percent of fees collected by motor vehicle dealers and trailer dealers remitted to the maintenance of DOR's modernized, integrated motor vehicle registration and driver licensing system from 1% to 3.5%.

#### LICENSE RENEWAL AND INSPECTIONS (Sections 301.147, 307.350, and 643.315)

Currently, vehicles manufactured as an even-numbered model year must be renewed each even-numbered calendar year and vehicles manufactured as an odd-numbered model year must be renewed each odd-numbered calendar year. The bill repeals this provision and specifies that any required safety or emissions inspection is required prior to renewal.

This bill allows the Director to stagger the registration period of certain motor vehicles to equalize workload or for the convenience of the registration applicant.

#### DEALER PLATES AND TABS (Section 301.560)

Currently the fees paid for the issuance of dealer plates or certificates of number are exempt from being deposited into the "Motor Vehicle Commission Fund". The bill removes this exemption.

This bill specifies that upon the renewal of a distinctive dealer license number or certificate of number the Department will issue a renewal tab to be placed in the lower right corner of dealer plates or certificates at a cost of \$25 for the first tab and \$6 for each additional tab.

#### SALE OF VEHICLES WITHOUT A LICENSE (Section 301.570)

Currently, a person can sell or display six vehicles with the intent to sell without a license. This bill increases the number of vehicles to eight.

#### EFFECTIVE DATE (Section B)

The effective dates of multiple provisions in the bill are contingent on the development and maintenance of DOR's modernized, integrated motor vehicle registration and driver licensing system.

The following is a summary of the public testimony from the committee hearing. The testimony was based on the introduced version of the bill.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this legislation will modernize some of the DOR's procedures and processes in preparation for their new modernized, integrated motor vehicle registration and driver licensing system. This will make it easier for citizens to get their licenses, titling, insurance, identification cards, and liens on vehicles handled by DOR. Currently, Missouri is the only state that ties titling prices for vehicles to horsepower, and our horsepower requirements are not truly tied to the horsepower of the vehicles being registered. It is more of a regulatory fiction that is applied to vehicles to reach certain outcomes. This equalizes fees and removes an unnecessary formula. These changes increase efficiency and clean up language. Longer motor vehicle registration periods are good for Missourians because of the burden involved in registering.

Testifying in person for the bill were Representative Bromley; Zachary Wyatt, Dept of Revenue; Arnie C. Dienoff.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Written testimony has been submitted for this bill. The full written testimony and witnesses testifying online can be found under Testimony on the bill page on the House website.