

HB 969 -- MOTOR VEHICLES (Knight)

COMMITTEE OF ORIGIN: Standing Committee on Economic Development

This bill clarifies that the Department of Revenue cannot release the home address or any other information that identifies any vehicle owned or leased by any person who is an active or retired county, State, or Federal parole officer, Federal pretrial officer, a peace officer, a person vested under the Missouri Constitution with judicial power of the State, a member of the Federal judiciary, or a member of such person's immediate family contained in the Department's motor vehicle or driver registration records (Section 32.056, RSMo.).

Currently, safety inspections are not required for registration of a motor vehicle having less than 150,000 miles for the 10 year period following the model year of manufacture. This bill changes that exemption to motor vehicles having less than 150,000 miles and a model year of 2012 or newer (Section 301.020).

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

This bill provides that, notwithstanding any provisions, law enforcement can stop a person if they suspect a violation of temporary permit rules. If it is determined the temporary permit is expired by at least 70 days or has been altered, the law enforcement officer can issue a citation and the person will receive a fine. If the person registers his or her vehicle within 30 days of receiving the citation, the charge must be dropped, the court costs will be waived, and the offense must not be registered on the person's driving record. If the vehicle is stopped for a second time due to a temporary permit violation after the 30 days have passed, the vehicle must be impounded until it is properly registered.

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 (Sections 301.055, 301.140, and 301.070).

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 (Section 301.110).

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 (Section 301.130).

Currently, dealers selling certain vehicles subject to liens can 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 (Section 301.140).

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 (Section 301.142).

Currently, any vehicle manufactured as an even-numbered model year vehicle must be renewed each even number calendar year and any vehicle manufactured as an odd numbered model year vehicle must be renewed each odd-numbered calendar year. This bill repeals that requirement (301.147).

A licensed motor vehicle dealer who knowingly completes an inspection with incorrect information will be subject to disciplinary action by DOR (Section 301.190).

Currently, a person who currently serves in or has been honorably discharged from any branch of the United States Armed Forces, the United States Coast Guard, or the reserves for any such branch can apply for special personalized license plates with the seal, logo, or emblem along with words designating their branch or subdivision of service. This bill adds members of the Space Force (Section 301.448).

This bill provides that the application for a Missouri Conservation Heritage Foundation emblem license plate and payment of the \$25

contribution can 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 (Section 301.469).

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 can 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 "trailers" and "trailer 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% (Section 301.558).

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 (Section 301.560).

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 (Section 301.570).

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" (Sections 301.3181, 301.3182).

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 for all registration issuances and renewals for motor vehicles under this section(Section 307.350).

The bill specifies that a pre-sale inspection must be performed no more than 60 days prior to sale, unless the buyer plans to register the car out of Missouri or the vehicle has under 30,000 miles and meets certain conditions, and also exempts these vehicles from safety and emissions inspections prior to sale if the vehicle is sold by a private seller or by a licensed motor vehicle dealer that has sold at least 200 motor vehicles in the previous calendar year. The seller must present to the buyer the inspection certificate when registering the vehicle (Section 307.380).

Currently, it is unlawful for a motorcycle or all-terrain vehicle franchisor to fail to pay reasonable compensation for certain items to a franchisee upon termination, cancellation, or refusal to continue a franchise or upon the discontinuation of certain line-make or parts or products. This bill would make it unlawful to fail to repurchase a franchisee's inventory or other items if the motorcycle or all-terrain franchise agreement is terminated, canceled, or not renewed by the manufacturer for cause; if the dealer voluntarily terminates an agreement in a permitted manner; if the manufacturer terminates or discontinues a franchise by discontinuing a line-make or by no longer doing business in this State; or if the manufacturer changes the distributor or method of distribution of its products in this State or alters its sales regions or marketing areas within this State in a way that eliminates or diminishes the dealer's market area. The manufacturer must repurchase the items within 30 days of termination (Section 407.1034).

Currently, any vehicle manufactured as an even-numbered model year vehicle must be inspected and approved under the emissions inspection program in each even-numbered calendar year and any vehicle manufactured as an odd-numbered model year vehicle must be inspected and approved under such program in each odd-numbered calendar year. This bill repeals that requirement (Section 643.315).