

HOUSE BILL NO. 541

INTRODUCED BY GLASER, HENDRICK, MAEDJE, SONJU, D. BROWN, LAMBERT, R. BROWN,
TAYLOR, WAGMAN, MORGAN, WARD, L. JONES

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REVISING THE REGISTRATION OF CERTAIN MOTOR HOMES;
ALLOWING MOTOR HOMES 11 YEARS OLD AND OLDER TO BE PERMANENTLY REGISTERED;
ESTABLISHING THE PERMANENT REGISTRATION FEE; PROVIDING THAT CERTAIN FEES FOR
PERMANENT REGISTRATION ARE FIVE TIMES THE EXISTING FEES; AMENDING SECTIONS 15-1-122,
19-6-709, 61-3-303, 61-3-321, 61-3-332, 61-3-479, AND 61-3-522, MCA; AND PROVIDING A DELAYED
EFFECTIVE DATE."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

Section 1. Section 15-1-122, MCA, is amended to read:

"15-1-122. Fund transfers. (1) There is transferred from the state general fund to the adoption services account, provided for in 42-2-105, \$36,764 for fiscal year 2003. Beginning with fiscal year 2004, the amount of the transfer must be increased by 10% in each succeeding fiscal year.

(2) There is transferred from the state general fund to the department of transportation state special revenue nonrestricted account the following amounts:

~~(a) \$75,000 in fiscal year 2003;~~

~~———(b) \$0 in fiscal years 2004 and 2005;~~

~~———(c) \$3,050,205 in fiscal year 2006; and~~

~~(d)~~(b) in each succeeding fiscal year, the amount in subsection ~~(2)(c)~~ (2)(a), increased by 1.5% in each succeeding fiscal year.

(3) For each fiscal year, there is transferred from the state general fund to the accounts, entities, or recipients indicated the following amounts:

(a) to the motor vehicle recycling and disposal program provided for in Title 75, chapter 10, part 5:

(i) \$2 for each new application for a motor vehicle title and for each transfer of a motor vehicle title for which a fee is paid pursuant to 61-3-203; and

(ii) \$1 for each passenger car or truck under 8,001 pounds GVW that is registered for licensing pursuant

1 to Title 61, chapter 3, part 3, and \$5 for each permanently registered light vehicle. Fifteen cents of each dollar
2 must be used for the purpose of reimbursing the hired removal of abandoned vehicles during the calendar year
3 following the calendar year in which the fee was paid. Any portion of the 15 cents not used for abandoned
4 vehicle removal reimbursement during the calendar year following its payment must be used as provided in
5 75-10-532.

6 (b) to the noxious weed state special revenue account provided for in 80-7-816:

7 (i) \$1 in fiscal year 2006 and, in each subsequent year, \$2.75 for each off-highway vehicle for which
8 the fee in lieu of tax is paid, as provided for in 23-2-803; and

9 (ii) for vehicles registered or reregistered pursuant to 61-3-321:

10 (A) \$1.50 for each registered light vehicle, truck or bus weighing less than 1 ton, logging truck, vehicle
11 weighing more than 1 ton, and motor home; and

12 (B) \$1.50 in fiscal year 2006 and, in each subsequent year, \$3.65 for each motorcycle and quadricycle;
13 and

14 (C) \$7.50 for each permanently registered motor home under 61-3-522(3) or light vehicle under
15 61-3-562;

16 (c) to the department of fish, wildlife, and parks:

17 (i) \$2.50 in fiscal year 2006 and, in each subsequent year, \$14.50 for each motorboat, sailboat, or
18 personal watercraft receiving a certificate of number under 23-2-512, with 20% of the amount received to be
19 used to acquire and maintain pumpout equipment and other boat facilities;

20 (ii) \$5 in fiscal year 2006 and, in each subsequent year, \$19 for each snowmobile registered under
21 23-2-616, with 50% of the amount to be used for enforcing the purposes of 23-2-601, 23-2-602, 23-2-611,
22 23-2-614 through 23-2-619, 23-2-621, 23-2-622, 23-2-626, 23-2-631 through 23-2-635, and 23-2-641 through
23 23-2-644 and 50% of the amount designated for use in the development, maintenance, and operation of
24 snowmobile facilities;

25 (iii) \$1 for each duplicate snowmobile registration decal issued under 23-2-617;

26 (iv) \$5 in fiscal year 2006 and, in each subsequent year, \$13.25 for each off-highway vehicle decal
27 issued under 23-2-804 and each off-highway vehicle duplicate decal issued under 23-2-809, with 40% of the
28 money used to enforce the provisions of 23-2-804 and 60% of the money used to develop and implement a
29 comprehensive program and to plan appropriate off-highway vehicle recreational use;

30 (v) to the state special revenue fund established in 23-1-105, \$3.50 in fiscal year 2006 and, in each

1 subsequent year, \$8 for each recreational vehicle, motor home, and travel trailer registered or reregistered and
2 subject to the fee in 61-3-321;

3 (vi) an amount equal to 20% of the funds collected pursuant to 23-2-518 to be deposited in the
4 motorboat account to be used as provided in 23-2-533; and

5 (vii) to the state special revenue fund established in 23-1-105, \$4 for each passenger car or truck under
6 8,001 pounds GVW registered for licensing pursuant to 61-3-321(11)(a), with \$3.50 of the money used for state
7 parks, 25 cents used for fishing access sites, and 25 cents used for the operation of state-owned facilities at
8 Virginia City and Nevada City;

9 (d) to the state veterans' cemetery account, provided for in 10-2-603, \$10 for each veteran's license
10 plate subject to the fee in 61-3-459;

11 (e) to the supplemental benefits for highway patrol officers' retirement account provided for in 19-6-709,
12 25 cents for each motor vehicle registered, other than:

13 (i) trailers or semitrailers registered in other jurisdictions and registered through a proportional
14 registration agreement; and

15 (ii) vehicles registered under 61-3-522(3), 61-3-527, 61-3-530, and 61-3-562;

16 (f) 25 cents a year for each registered vehicle and \$1.25 for each permanently registered vehicle subject
17 to the fee in 61-3-321(6) for deposit in the state special revenue fund to the credit of the senior citizens and
18 persons with disabilities transportation services account provided for in 7-14-112;

19 (g) to the search and rescue account provided for in 10-3-801:

20 (i) \$2 a year for each vessel [subject to the search and rescue surcharge] in 23-2-517;

21 (ii) \$2 a year for each snowmobile [subject to the search and rescue surcharge] in 23-2-615(1)(b) and
22 23-2-616(3); and

23 (iii) \$2 a year for each off-highway vehicle [subject to the search and rescue surcharge] in 23-2-803; and

24 (h) 50 cents a year for each vehicle subject to the fee in 61-3-321(7) for deposit in the state special
25 revenue fund to the credit of the veterans' services account provided for in 10-2-112(1).

26 (4) For each fiscal year, the department of justice shall provide to the department of revenue a count
27 of the vehicles required for the calculations in subsection (3). The department of justice shall provide a separate
28 count of vehicles that are permanently registered pursuant to 61-3-522(3) and 61-3-562. A permanently
29 registered vehicle may be included in vehicle counts only in the year in which the vehicle is registered or
30 reregistered. Transfer amounts in each fiscal year must be based on vehicle counts in the most recent calendar

1 year for which vehicle information is available. Vehicles that are permanently registered may be included in
2 vehicle counts only in the year in which the vehicles are registered by new owners.

3 (5) The amounts transferred from the general fund to the designated recipient must be appropriated
4 as state special revenue in the general appropriations act for the designated purposes."
5

6 **Section 2.** Section 19-6-709, MCA, is amended to read:

7 **"19-6-709. (Temporary) Supplemental benefits for certain retirees.** (1) In addition to any retirement
8 benefit payable under this chapter, a retired member or a survivor determined by the board to be eligible under
9 subsection (2) must receive an annual lump-sum benefit payment beginning in September 1991 and each
10 succeeding year as long as the member remains eligible.

11 (2) To be eligible for the benefits under this section, a person must be receiving a monthly benefit before
12 July 1, 1991, may not be covered by 19-6-710, and must be:

13 (a) a retired member who is 55 years of age or older and who has been receiving a service retirement
14 benefit for at least 5 years prior to the date of distribution;

15 (b) a survivor of a member who would have been eligible under subsection (2)(a); or

16 (c) a recipient of a disability benefit under 19-6-601 or a survivorship benefit under 19-6-901.

17 (3) A retired member otherwise qualified under this section who is employed in a position covered by
18 a retirement system under Title 19 is ineligible to receive any lump-sum benefit payments provided for in this
19 section until the member's service in the covered position is terminated. Upon termination of the member's
20 service, the retired member becomes eligible in the next fiscal year succeeding the member's termination.

21 (4) The amount of fees transferred to the pension trust fund pursuant to 15-1-122(3)(e), 61-3-522(3)(b),
22 61-3-527(4), and 61-3-562(1)(b) must be distributed proportionally as a lump-sum benefit payment to each
23 eligible recipient based on service credit at the time of retirement, subject to the following:

24 (a) a recipient under subsection (2)(c) is considered to have 20 years of service credit for the purposes
25 of the distributions;

26 (b) any recipient of a retirement benefit exceeding the maximum monthly benefit under 19-6-707(2)(a)
27 must have the recipient's service credit reduced 25% for the purposes of the distributions;

28 (c) the maximum annual increase in the amount of supplemental benefits paid to each individual under
29 this section is the percentage increase for the previous calendar year in the annual average consumer price
30 index for urban wage earners and workers, compiled by the bureau of labor statistics of the United States

1 department of labor or its successor agency. (Terminates upon death of last eligible recipient--sec. 1, Ch. 567,
2 L. 1991.)"

3

4 **Section 3.** Section 61-3-303, MCA, is amended to read:

5 **"61-3-303. Registration -- process -- fees.** (1) A Montana resident who owns a motor vehicle operated
6 or driven upon the public highways of this state shall register the motor vehicle in the office of the county
7 treasurer in the county where the owner permanently resides or, if the vehicle is owned by a corporation or used
8 primarily for commercial purposes, in the county where the vehicle is permanently assigned.

9 (2) (a) Except as provided in subsection (3), the county treasurer shall register any vehicle for which:

10 (i) as of the date that the vehicle is to be registered, the owner delivers an application for a certificate
11 of title to the department, its authorized agent, or a county treasurer; or

12 (ii) the county treasurer confirms that the department has an electronic record of title for the vehicle as
13 provided under 61-3-101.

14 (b) To register a vehicle, the county treasurer shall update the electronic record of title maintained by
15 the department under 61-3-101 by entering the fees paid and recording any changes to the recorded data.

16 (3) (a) A county treasurer shall register a motor vehicle for which a certificate of title and registration
17 were issued in another jurisdiction and for which registration is required under 61-3-701 after the county
18 treasurer examines the current out-of-jurisdiction registration certificate or receipt and receives payment of the
19 fees required in 61-3-701. The county treasurer may ask the vehicle owner to provide additional information,
20 prescribed by the department, to ensure that the electronic record of registration maintained by the department
21 is complete.

22 (b) A county treasurer may register a motor vehicle for which the new owner cannot present the
23 previously issued certificate of title only as authorized by the department under 61-3-342.

24 (4) The department or the county treasurer shall determine the amount of fees, including local option
25 taxes or fees, to be collected at the time of registration for each light vehicle subject to a registration fee under
26 61-3-560 through 61-3-562 and for each bus, truck having a manufacturer's rated capacity of more than 1 ton,
27 and truck tractor subject to a fee in lieu of tax under 61-3-529. The county treasurer shall collect the registration
28 fee, other appropriate fees, and local option taxes or fees, if applicable, on each motor vehicle at the time of its
29 registration.

30 (5) A person who seeks to register a motor vehicle, except a mobile home or a manufactured home as

1 those terms are defined in 15-1-101(1), shall pay to the county treasurer:

2 (a) the registration fee, as provided in 61-3-311 and 61-3-321 or 61-3-456;

3 (b) except as provided in 61-3-456 or unless it has been previously paid, the motor vehicle fees in lieu
4 of tax or registration fees under 61-3-560 through 61-3-562 imposed against the vehicle for the current year of
5 registration and the immediately previous year; and

6 (c) a donation of \$1 or more if the person has indicated on the application that the person wishes to
7 donate to promote awareness and education efforts for procurement of organ and tissue donations in Montana
8 to favorably impact anatomical gifts; and

9 (d) a donation of \$1 or more if the person has indicated on the application that the person wishes to
10 donate to promote education on, support for, and awareness of traumatic brain injury.

11 (6) The county treasurer may not issue a registration receipt or license plates for the vehicle to the
12 owner unless the owner makes the payments required by subsection (5). Except as provided in 61-3-522(3),
13 61-3-560 through 61-3-562, the department may not assess or impose and the county treasurer may not collect
14 taxes or fees for a period other than:

15 (a) the current year; and

16 (b) except as provided in subsection (9), the immediately preceding year if the vehicle was not
17 registered or operated on the highways of the state, regardless of the period of time since the vehicle was
18 previously registered or operated.

19 (7) The department may make full and complete investigation of the registration status of the vehicle.
20 A person seeking to register a motor vehicle under this section shall provide additional information to support
21 the registration to the department if requested.

22 (8) Revenue that accrues from the voluntary donation provided in subsection (5)(c) must be forwarded
23 by the respective county treasurer to the department of revenue for deposit in the state special revenue fund to
24 the credit of an account established by the department of public health and human services to support activities
25 related to awareness and education efforts for procurement of organ and tissue donations for anatomical gifts.

26 (9) (a) Except as provided in subsection (9)(b), the fees in lieu of tax, taxes, and fees imposed on or
27 collected from the registration of a travel trailer, motorcycle, or quadricycle or a trailer, pole trailer, or semitrailer
28 that has a declared weight of less than 26,000 pounds are required to be paid only once during the time that the
29 vehicle is owned by the same person who registered the vehicle. Once registered, a vehicle described in this
30 subsection (9)(a) is registered permanently unless ownership of the vehicle is transferred.

1 (b) Whenever ownership of a vehicle described in subsection (9)(a) is transferred, the new owner is
2 required to register the vehicle as if it were being registered for the first time, including paying all of the required
3 fees in lieu of tax, taxes, and fees.

4 (10) Revenue that accrues from the voluntary donation provided in subsection (5)(d) must be forwarded
5 by the respective county treasurer to the department of revenue for deposit in the state special revenue fund to
6 the credit of the account established in 2-15-2218 to support activities related to education regarding prevention
7 of traumatic brain injury."

8

9 **Section 4.** Section 61-3-321, MCA, is amended to read:

10 **"61-3-321. Registration fees of vehicles -- certain vehicles exempt from registration fees --**
11 **disposition of fees.** (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section, registration fees must be paid upon
12 registration or, if applicable, reregistration of motor vehicles, trailers, and semitrailers, in accordance with this
13 chapter, as follows:

14 (a) light vehicles under 2,850 pounds, \$13.75 in calendar year 2004 and, in each subsequent year, \$17;

15 (b) trailers with a declared weight of less than 2,500 pounds and semitrailers, \$8.25. For a trailer or
16 semitrailer described in 61-3-530(1), this fee is a one-time fee, except upon transfer of ownership of the trailer
17 or semitrailer.

18 (c) motor vehicles registered pursuant to 61-3-411 that are:

19 (i) 2,850 pounds and over, \$10; and

20 (ii) under 2,850 pounds, \$5;

21 (d) off-highway vehicles registered pursuant to 23-2-817, ~~\$9 in calendar year 2004 and, in each~~
22 ~~subsequent year,~~ \$19.25. This fee is a one-time fee, except upon transfer of ownership of an off-highway
23 vehicle.

24 (e) light vehicles over 2,850 pounds, trucks and buses less than 1 ton, and heavy trucks in excess of
25 1 ton, ~~\$18.75 in calendar year 2004 and, in each subsequent year,~~ \$22;

26 (f) logging trucks less than 1 ton, \$23.75;

27 (g) motor homes, \$22.25;

28 (h) motorcycles and quadricycles, \$9.75 for a motorcycle or quadricycle with special license plates
29 issued under 61-3-415 and, for a motorcycle or quadricycle under one-time registration, ~~\$9.75 in calendar year~~
30 ~~2004 and, in each subsequent year,~~ \$11.25. This fee is a one-time fee, except upon transfer of ownership of a

1 motorcycle or quadricycle.

2 (i) trailers and semitrailers between 2,500 and 6,000 pounds, \$11.25. For a trailer or semitrailer
3 described in 61-3-530(1), this fee is a one-time fee, except upon transfer of ownership of the trailer or semitrailer.

4 (j) trailers and semitrailers in excess of 6,000 pounds, other than trailers and semitrailers registered in
5 other jurisdictions and registered through a proportional registration agreement, \$16.25. For a trailer or
6 semitrailer described in 61-3-530(1), this fee is a one-time fee, except upon transfer of ownership of the trailer
7 or semitrailer.

8 (k) travel trailers, \$11.75. This fee is a one-time fee, except upon transfer of ownership of a travel trailer.

9 (l) recreational vehicles, ~~\$3.50 in calendar year 2004 and, in each subsequent year,~~ \$9.75. If the
10 recreational vehicle is a travel trailer, this fee is a one-time fee, except upon transfer of ownership of a travel
11 trailer.

12 (2) (a) Except as provided in subsection (2)(b), if a motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer is originally
13 registered 6 months after the time of registration as set by law, the registration fee for the remainder of the year
14 is one-half of the regular fee.

15 (b) For a trailer or semitrailer described in 61-3-530(1), the applicable fees must be paid regardless of
16 when the fees were last paid or if the fees were paid at all.

17 (3) An additional fee of \$5 for a motorcycle or quadricycle with special license plates issued under
18 61-3-415 and, for a motorcycle or quadricycle under one-time registration, ~~\$5 in calendar year 2004 and, in each~~
19 ~~subsequent year,~~ \$16 must be collected for the registration of each motorcycle as a safety fee and must be
20 deposited in the state motorcycle safety account provided for in 20-25-1002.

21 (4) A fee of \$5 for each set of new number plates must be collected when number plates provided for
22 under 61-3-332(2) are issued.

23 (5) The provisions of this part with respect to the payment of registration fees do not apply to and are
24 not binding upon motor vehicles, trailers, semitrailers, or tractors owned or controlled by the United States of
25 America or any state, county, city, or special district, as defined in 18-8-202.

26 (6) (a) Except as provided in 61-3-522(3) and 61-3-562 and subsection (6)(b) of this section, a fee of
27 25 cents a year for each registration of a vehicle must be collected when a vehicle is registered or reregistered.
28 The revenue derived from this fee must be forwarded by the county treasurer for deposit in the state general
29 fund for transfer to the credit of the senior citizens and persons with disabilities transportation services account
30 provided for in 7-14-112.

1 (b) The following vehicles are not subject to the fee imposed in subsection (6)(a):

2 (i) trailers and semitrailers registered in other jurisdictions and registered through a proportional
3 registration agreement; and

4 (ii) travel trailers, recreational vehicles, and off-highway vehicles registered pursuant to 23-2-817.

5 (7) (a) Except as provided in 61-3-522(3), 61-3-562, and subsection (7)(b) of this section, a fee of 50
6 cents a year for each registration of a vehicle must be collected when a vehicle is registered or reregistered. The
7 county treasurer shall forward revenue derived from this fee to the state for deposit in the general fund.

8 (b) The following vehicles are not subject to the fee:

9 (i) trailers and semitrailers registered in other jurisdictions and registered through a proportional
10 registration agreement;

11 (ii) off-highway vehicles registered pursuant to 23-2-817; and

12 (iii) vehicles bearing license plates described in 61-3-458(3)(d).

13 (8) The provisions of this section relating to the payment of registration fees or new number plate fees
14 do not apply when number plates are transferred to a replacement vehicle under 61-3-317, 61-3-332, or
15 61-3-335.

16 (9) A person eligible for a waiver under 61-3-460 is exempt from the fees required under this section.

17 (10) Except as otherwise provided in this section, revenue collected under this section must be
18 deposited in the state general fund.

19 (11) (a) Unless a person exercises the option in subsection (11)(b), an additional fee of \$4 must be
20 collected for each light vehicle or truck under 8,001 pounds GVW registered for licensing pursuant to this part.
21 The fee must be deposited in the state general fund to be used for state parks, for fishing access sites, and for
22 the operation of state-owned facilities as provided in 15-1-122(3)(c)(vii).

23 (b) A person who registers a light vehicle or truck under 8,001 pounds GVW may, at the time of annual
24 registration, certify that the person does not intend to use state parks and fishing access sites and may make
25 a written election not to pay the additional \$4 fee provided for in subsection (11)(a). If a written election is made,
26 the fee may not be collected."

27

28 **Section 5.** Section 61-3-332, MCA, is amended to read:

29 **"61-3-332. Number plates.** (1) A motor vehicle that is driven upon the streets or highways of Montana
30 must display both front and rear number plates, bearing the distinctive number assigned to the vehicle.

1 (2) In addition to special license plates, collegiate license plates, and generic specialty license plates
2 authorized under this chapter, a separate series of number plates must be issued, in the manner specified, for
3 each of the following vehicle or dealer types:

4 (a) passenger vehicles, including automobiles, vans, and sport utility vehicles;

5 (b) motorcycles and quadricycles, bearing the letters "MC" or "CYCLE";

6 (c) trucks, bearing the letter "T" or the word "TRUCK";

7 (d) trailers, bearing the letters "TR" or the word "TRAILER";

8 (e) dealers of new, or new and used, motor vehicles, including trucks and trailers, bearing the letter "D"
9 or the word "DEALER";

10 (f) dealers of used motor vehicles only, including trucks and trailers, bearing the letters "UD" or the letter
11 "U" and the word "DEALER";

12 (g) dealers of motorcycles or quadricycles, bearing the letters "MCD" or the letters "MC" and the word
13 "DEALER";

14 (h) dealers of trailers or semitrailers, bearing the letters "DTR" or the letters "TR" and the word
15 "DEALER"; and

16 (i) dealers of recreational vehicles, bearing the letters "RV" or the letter "R" and the word "DEALER".

17 (3) (a) Except as provided in 61-3-479 and subsections (3)(b), (4)(c), and (4)(d) of this section, all
18 number plates for motor vehicles must be issued for a minimum period of 4 years, bear a distinctive marking,
19 and be furnished by the department. In years when number plates are not issued, the department shall provide
20 a registration decal that must be affixed to the rear license plate of the vehicle.

21 (b) For light vehicles that are permanently registered as provided in 61-3-522(3), 61-3-527 or 61-3-315,
22 and 61-3-562 and vehicles described in 61-3-303(9) that are permanently registered, the department shall
23 provide a distinctive registration decal indicating that the vehicle is permanently registered. The registration decal
24 must be affixed to the rear license plate of the permanently registered vehicle.

25 (4) (a) Subject to the provisions of this section, the department shall create a new design for number
26 plates as provided in this section, and it shall manufacture the newly designed number plates for issuance after
27 December 31, 2005, to replace at renewal, as required in 61-3-312 and 61-3-314, number plates that were
28 displayed on motor vehicles before that date.

29 (b) Beginning January 1, 2006, the department shall manufacture and issue new number plates after
30 the existing plates have been used for a minimum period of 4 years.

1 (c) A light vehicle that is registered for a 24-month period, as provided in 61-3-315 and 61-3-560, may
2 display the number plate and plate design in effect at the time of registration for the entire 24-month registration
3 period.

4 (d) A light vehicle described in subsection (3)(b) of this section or a motor home under 61-3-522(3) that
5 is permanently registered may display the number plate and plate design in effect at the time of registration for
6 the entire period that the vehicle is permanently registered.

7 (5) For passenger vehicles and trucks, plates must be of metal 6 inches wide and 12 inches in length.
8 Except for generic specialty license plates, the outline of the state of Montana must be used as a distinctive
9 border on the license plates, and the word "Montana" must be placed on each plate. Registration plates must
10 be treated with a reflectorized background material according to specifications prescribed by the department.

11 (6) The distinctive registration numbers must begin with a number one or with a letter-number
12 combination, such as "A 1" or "AA 1", or any other similar combination of letters and numbers. Except for special
13 license plates, collegiate license plates, and generic specialty license plates, the distinctive registration number
14 or letter-number combination assigned to the vehicle must appear on the plate preceded by the number of the
15 county and appearing in horizontal order on the same horizontal baseline. The county number must be
16 separated from the distinctive registration number by a separation mark unless a letter-number combination is
17 used. The dimensions of the numerals and letters must be determined by the department, and all county and
18 registration numbers must be of equal height.

19 (7) For the use of exempt motor vehicles and motor vehicles that are exempt from the registration fee
20 as provided in 61-3-560(2)(a), in addition to the markings provided in this section, number plates must bear the
21 following distinctive markings:

22 (a) For vehicles owned by the state, the department may designate the prefix number for the various
23 state departments. All numbered plates issued to state departments must bear the words "State Owned", and
24 a year number may not be indicated on the plates because these numbered plates are of a permanent nature
25 and will be replaced by the department only when the physical condition of numbered plates requires it.

26 (b) For vehicles that are owned by the counties, municipalities, and special districts, as defined in
27 18-8-202, organized under the laws of Montana and not operating for profit, and that are used and operated by
28 officials and employees in the line of duty and for vehicles on loan from the United States government or the
29 state of Montana to, or owned by, the civil air patrol and used and operated by officials and employees in the
30 line of duty, there must be placed on the number plates assigned, in a position that the department may

1 designate, the letter "X" or the word "EXEMPT". Distinctive registration numbers for plates assigned to motor
2 vehicles of each of the counties in the state and those of the municipalities and special districts that obtain plates
3 within each county must begin with number one and be numbered consecutively. Because these number plates
4 are of a permanent nature, they are subject to replacement by the department only when the physical condition
5 of the number plates requires it and a year number may not be displayed on the number plates.

6 (8) Number plates issued to a passenger vehicle, truck, trailer, motorcycle, or quadricycle may be
7 transferred only to a replacement passenger vehicle, truck, trailer, motorcycle, or quadricycle. A registration fee
8 may not be assessed upon a transfer of a number plate under 61-3-317 and 61-3-335.

9 (9) For the purpose of this chapter, the several counties of the state are assigned numbers as follows:
10 Silver Bow, 1; Cascade, 2; Yellowstone, 3; Missoula, 4; Lewis and Clark, 5; Gallatin, 6; Flathead, 7; Fergus, 8;
11 Powder River, 9; Carbon, 10; Phillips, 11; Hill, 12; Ravalli, 13; Custer, 14; Lake, 15; Dawson, 16; Roosevelt, 17;
12 Beaverhead, 18; Chouteau, 19; Valley, 20; Toole, 21; Big Horn, 22; Musselshell, 23; Blaine, 24; Madison, 25;
13 Pondera, 26; Richland, 27; Powell, 28; Rosebud, 29; Deer Lodge, 30; Teton, 31; Stillwater, 32; Treasure, 33;
14 Sheridan, 34; Sanders, 35; Judith Basin, 36; Daniels, 37; Glacier, 38; Fallon, 39; Sweet Grass, 40; McCone, 41;
15 Carter, 42; Broadwater, 43; Wheatland, 44; Prairie, 45; Granite, 46; Meagher, 47; Liberty, 48; Park, 49; Garfield,
16 50; Jefferson, 51; Wibaux, 52; Golden Valley, 53; Mineral, 54; Petroleum, 55; Lincoln, 56. Any new counties must
17 be assigned numbers by the department as they are formed, beginning with the number 57.

18 (10) Each type of special license plate approved by the legislature, except collegiate license plates
19 authorized in 61-3-463 and generic specialty license plates authorized in 61-3-472 through 61-3-481, must be
20 a separate series of plates, numbered as provided in subsection (6), except that the county number must be
21 replaced by a nonremovable design or decal designating the group or organization to which the applicant
22 belongs. Unless otherwise specifically stated in this section, the special plates are subject to the same rules and
23 laws as govern the issuance of regular license plates, must be placed or mounted on a vehicle owned by the
24 person who is eligible to receive them, with the registration decal affixed to the rear license plate of the vehicle,
25 and must be removed upon sale or other disposition of the vehicle.

26 (11) A Montana resident who is eligible to receive a special parking permit under 49-4-301 may, upon
27 written application on a form prescribed by the department, be issued a special license plate with a design or
28 decal bearing a representation of a wheelchair as the symbol of a person with a disability. If the vehicle to which
29 the license plate is attached is permanently registered, the owner of the vehicle shall maintain evidence of
30 continued eligibility to use the license plate, which must be attached to the registration document in the vehicle.

1 (12) The provisions of this section do not apply to a motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer that is registered
 2 as part of a fleet, as defined in 61-3-712, and that is subject to the provisions of 61-3-711 through 61-3-733."
 3

4 **Section 6.** Section 61-3-479, MCA, is amended to read:

5 **"61-3-479. Issuance of generic specialty license plates -- qualifications.** (1) (a) Except as provided
 6 in subsection (1)(b), the department shall issue a set of generic specialty license plates to a person who applies
 7 for a particular style of generic specialty license plates and pays the donation fee established by the plate
 8 sponsor and the administrative fee required in 61-3-480.

9 (b) If the sponsor of a generic specialty license plate is not listed on the county collection report
 10 published by the department of revenue and required under 15-1-504 as of the initial distribution date for the sale
 11 of the sponsor's plates, the department shall require the sponsor to collect the initial donation fee from, and issue
 12 a special certificate of registration to, a person who is eligible to receive the sponsor's generic specialty license
 13 plates. The person shall present the special certificate of registration upon application for the generic specialty
 14 license plates.

15 (2) A set of generic specialty license plates may be issued for any vehicle, except a trailer of any size,
 16 a motorcycle, or a quadricycle.

17 (3) (a) Except as provided in 61-3-472 through 61-3-481, 61-3-522(3), and 61-3-562, a person who
 18 receives generic specialty license plates is subject to the same rules and laws as those that govern number
 19 plates.

20 (b) Except as provided in 61-3-472 through 61-3-481, 61-3-522(3), and 61-3-562, the department is
 21 subject to the same rules and laws that govern the issuance of number plates.

22 (c) Generic specialty license plates issued under 61-3-472 through 61-3-481 are not subject to any
 23 maximum issuance or use limitation that may be imposed on number plates.

24 (4) A person may combine an application for a generic specialty license plate with an application for
 25 a license plate with a design bearing a representation of a wheelchair as the symbol of a person with a disability
 26 as provided in 61-3-332(11)."
 27

28 **Section 7.** Section 61-3-522, MCA, is amended to read:

29 **"61-3-522. Schedule of fees for motor homes -- permanent registration -- transfer of ownership.**

30 (1) The owner of a motor home shall pay a registration fee based on the age of the motor home according to

1 the following schedule:

2 less than 2 years old	\$250
3 2 years old and less than 3 years old	230
4 3 years old and less than 4 years old	195
5 4 years old and less than 5 years old	150
6 5 years old and less than 6 years old	125
7 6 years old and less than 7 years old	100
8 7 years old and less than 8 years old	75
9 8 years old and older	65

10 (2) (a) Except as provided in subsection (2)(b), the age of a motor home is determined by subtracting
11 the manufacturer's designated model year from the current calendar year.

12 (b) If the purchase year of a motor home precedes the designated model year of the motor home and
13 the motor home is originally titled in Montana, then the purchase year is considered the model year for the
14 purposes of calculating the fee in lieu of tax.

15 (3) (a) The owner of a motor home 11 years old or older subject to the registration fee under subsection
16 (1) may permanently register the motor home upon payment of a \$195 registration fee, the applicable
17 registration and license fees under 61-3-321 and 61-3-412, and an amount equal to five times the applicable
18 fees imposed for each of the following:

19 (i) weed control fees under 15-1-122(3)(b);

20 (ii) the county motor vehicle computer fees under former 61-3-511;

21 (iii) if applicable and subject to subsection (3)(c), special license plate fees under 61-3-332 and renewal
22 fees for personalized plates under 61-3-406; and

23 (iv) senior citizens and persons with disabilities transportation services fees as provided in 61-3-321(6).

24 (b) A person who permanently registers a motor home as provided in subsection (1)(a) shall pay an
25 additional \$2 fee at the time of registration for deposit in the state general fund. The department shall pay from
26 the general fund an amount equal to the \$2 fee collected under this subsection (3)(b) from each motor home
27 registration to the pension trust fund for payment of supplemental benefits provided for in 19-6-709.

28 (c) The following series of license plates may not be used for purposes of permanent registration of a
29 motor home:

30 (i) Montana national guard license plates issued under 61-3-458(2)(b);

- 1 (ii) reserve armed forces license plates issued under 61-3-458(2)(c);
2 (iii) license plates bearing a wheelchair design as a symbol of a person with a disability issued under
3 61-3-332(11);
4 (iv) amateur radio operator license plates issued under 61-3-422;
5 (v) collegiate license plates issued under 61-3-465; and
6 (vi) generic specialty license plates issued under 61-3-479.
7 (4) The owner of a motor home that is permanently registered under this section is not subject to
8 additional registration fees under subsection (1) or to other motor vehicle registration fees described in this
9 section for as long as the owner owns the motor home.
10 (5) The county treasurer shall:
11 (a) distribute the \$195 registration fee collected under this section as provided in 61-3-509;
12 (b) remit to the department of revenue the amounts collected under this section for the purposes of
13 15-1-122(3).
14 (6) (a) The permanent registration of a motor home allowed by this section may not be transferred to
15 a new owner. If the motor home is transferred to a new owner, the department shall cancel the motor home's
16 permanent registration.
17 (b) Upon transfer of a motor home registered under this section to a new owner, the new owner shall
18 apply for a certificate of title under 61-3-201 and file an application for registration under 61-3-303."
19
20 COORDINATION SECTION. SECTION 8. COORDINATION INSTRUCTION. IF SENATE BILL NO. 285 AND [THIS
21 ACT] ARE BOTH PASSED AND APPROVED THEN [SECTIONS 1 THROUGH 4, 6, AND 7 OF THIS ACT] ARE VOID AND THE
22 FOLLOWING MUST BE INSERTED INTO 61-3-321(7), THE FEE SCHEDULE FOR MOTOR HOMES, AS AMENDED BY SENATE BILL
23 No. 285:
24 "(c) (i) The owner of a motor home 11 years old or older subject to the registration fee under subsection
25 (7)(a) may permanently register the motor home upon payment of:
26 (A) a fee of \$237.50; and
27 (B) if applicable, five times the personalized license plate fees under 61-3-406.
28 (ii) The following series of license plates may not be used for purposes of permanent registration of a
29 motor home:
30 (A) Montana national guard license plates issued under 61-3-458(2)(b);

- 1 (B) reserve armed forces license plates issued under 61-3-458(2)(c);
2 (C) license plates bearing a wheelchair design as a symbol of a person with a disability issued under
3 61-3-332(11);
4 (D) amateur radio operator license plates issued under 61-3-422;
5 (E) collegiate license plates issued under 61-3-465; and
6 (F) generic specialty license plates issued under 61-3-479.
7 (iii) Except as provided in subsection (17), whenever a transfer of ownership of a permanently registered
8 motor home occurs, the applicable fees required under this subsection (7) must be paid by the new owner."
9

10 **NEW SECTION. Section 9. Effective date.** [This act] is effective January 1, 2006.

11 - END -