

SENATE BILL NO. 175

INTRODUCED BY G. PERRY

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3
4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT PROVIDING THAT CERTAIN PERMANENTLY REGISTERED
5 VEHICLES ARE NOT SUBJECT TO REREGISTRATION UPON TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP; AMENDING
6 SECTIONS 23-2-511, 23-2-515, 23-2-616, 23-2-621, 61-3-303, 61-3-313, 61-3-321, 61-3-322, 61-3-332, AND
7 61-3-411, MCA; AND PROVIDING A DELAYED EFFECTIVE DATE."

8
9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

10
11 **Section 1.** Section 23-2-511, MCA, is amended to read:

12 **"23-2-511. Operation of unnumbered motorboats or sailboats prohibited -- display of registration
13 and validation decals.** (1) A motorboat on the waters of this state that is propelled by a motor or an engine of
14 any description or a sailboat on the waters of this state must be properly numbered and display valid registration
15 and validation decals. A person may not operate or give permission for the operation of any motorboat or sailboat
16 on the waters of this state unless the motorboat or sailboat is numbered and displays valid registration and
17 validation decals in accordance with this part and applicable federal law or with a federally approved numbering
18 system of another state and unless:

19 (a) the certificate of number assigned to the motorboat or sailboat is in effect;

20 (b) the identifying number set forth in the certificate of number and the valid license decals are displayed
21 on the motorboat or sailboat; and

22 (c) a temporary permit has been obtained from the county in which a motorboat is being operated if that
23 county requires a temporary permit for out-of-state motorboats, as provided in 7-16-2121.

24 (2) Upon transfer of ownership of a motorboat or sailboat, the transferred motorboat or sailboat may be
25 operated on the waters of this state for 40 consecutive calendar days immediately following the transfer of
26 ownership ~~without displaying the registration and validation decals required by subsection (1) if when the~~
27 ~~motorboat or sailboat is operated during those 40 consecutive calendar days, a temporary registration permit has~~
28 ~~been issued under 61-3-224 and is shown to a warden or other officer upon request~~ the new owner having
29 complied with the certificate of title requirements provided in 23-2-508."

30

1 **Section 2.** Section 23-2-515, MCA, is amended to read:

2 **"23-2-515. Registration decal to be displayed.** (1) A Montana motorboat, sailboat, or personal
3 watercraft numbered in accordance with the provisions of 23-2-512 must display a registration decal. For this
4 purpose, the county treasurer, upon proof of payment of the registration fee as required by 61-3-321(10), shall
5 issue a registration decal prepared and furnished by the department of justice with all new certificates of number
6 and, if applicable, all renewals of the certificates of number.

7 (2) (a) The registration decal must be of a style and design prescribed by the department of justice.

8 (b) The registration decal must be serially numbered.

9 (c) The registration decals issued for a motorboat, sailboat, or personal watercraft do not expire ~~while~~
10 ~~the motorboat, sailboat, or personal watercraft remains in the same ownership.~~

11 (3) A registration decal must be displayed on the left side of the forward half, 3 inches aft of the
12 identifying numbers."

13

14 **Section 3.** Section 23-2-616, MCA, is amended to read:

15 **"23-2-616. Registration and registration decal -- application and issuance -- use of certain fees.**

16 (1) Except for a snowmobile registered under 23-2-621, a snowmobile may not be operated on public lands by
17 any person unless it has been registered and a registration decal is displayed in a conspicuous place on the left
18 side of the cowl.

19 (2) (a) A Montana resident who owns a snowmobile operated on public land that has never before been
20 registered in Montana shall register the snowmobile at the county treasurer's office in the county where the owner
21 resides.

22 (b) A county treasurer shall register a snowmobile if:

23 (i) as of the date that the snowmobile is to be registered, the owner delivers or has delivered an
24 application for a certificate of title to the department, its authorized agent, or a county treasurer; or

25 (ii) the county treasurer has confirmed that the department of justice has an electronic record of title for
26 the snowmobile as provided in 61-3-101.

27 (c) To register a snowmobile, the county treasurer shall update the electronic record of title maintained
28 by the department of justice, by entering the fees paid and recording any changes to the record.

29 (3) The owner registering a snowmobile shall pay the registration fee prescribed in 61-3-321(11) ~~and,~~
30 ~~if the snowmobile has previously been registered, show the county treasurer the registration receipt for the most~~

1 ~~recent year in which the snowmobile was registered.~~ Upon payment of the proper fee, the treasurer shall issue
2 a registration receipt that contains information considered necessary by the department of justice and a listing
3 of fees paid. The owner shall retain possession of the registration receipt until it is surrendered to the county
4 treasurer or to a purchaser or subsequent owner pursuant to a transfer of ownership.

5 (4) The county treasurer shall forward the application to the department of justice and shall issue to the
6 applicant a registration decal in the style and design prescribed by the department of justice.

7 (5) The county treasurer may not register a snowmobile under this section unless the applicant has paid
8 the registration fee.

9 (6) All money collected from payment of registration fees and all interest accruing from use of this money
10 must be forwarded to the state, as provided in 15-1-504, for deposit in the state general fund.

11 (7) Once a snowmobile has been registered as provided in 61-3-321 and this section, the snowmobile
12 remains permanently registered regardless of any transfer of ownership that may occur."

13

14 **Section 4.** Section 23-2-621, MCA, is amended to read:

15 **"23-2-621. Registration of a snowmobile owned and operated solely as a collector's item.** (1) An
16 owner of a snowmobile that is more than 25 years old and that is used solely as a collector's item and not for
17 general recreational purposes may file with the county treasurer an application for the registration of the
18 snowmobile. The application must be sworn to before an officer authorized to administer oaths. The application
19 must state:

20 (a) the name and address of the owner;

21 (b) the name and address of the person from whom the snowmobile was purchased;

22 (c) the make, the year and number of the model, and the manufacturer's identification number and serial
23 number of the snowmobile; and

24 (d) that the snowmobile is owned and operated solely as a collector's item and not for general
25 recreational purposes.

26 (2) The registration fee for a snowmobile registered under subsection (1) is \$10.

27 (3) Upon receipt of the application for registration and payment of the registration fee, the county
28 treasurer shall file the application, register the snowmobile in the manner specified in 23-2-616, and deliver to
29 the applicant a license plate or decal bearing the inscription "Vintage--Montana" and the registration number.

30 (4) The year of issuance may not be shown on the plate or decal.

1 (5) Annual renewal of the registration of a snowmobile registered under this section is not required, and
2 the registration is valid as long as the snowmobile is in existence. ~~Upon sale of the snowmobile, the purchaser~~
3 ~~shall renew the registration and pay the license fee required in subsection (2)."~~

4

5 **Section 5.** Section 61-3-303, MCA, is amended to read:

6 **"61-3-303. Original registration -- process -- fees.** (1) Except as provided in 61-3-324, a Montana
7 resident who owns a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer operated or driven upon the public highways
8 of this state shall register the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer in the office of the county treasurer
9 in the county where the owner is domiciled.

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

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

13 (b) the county treasurer confirms that the department has an electronic record of title for the motor
14 vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer as provided under 61-3-101.

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

21 (b) A county treasurer may register a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer for which the new
22 owner cannot, due to circumstances beyond the new owner's control, surrender a previously assigned certificate
23 of title. The new owner may submit an application for certificate of title, subject to the registration renewal
24 limitations of 61-3-312.

25 (4) Upon registering a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer for the first time in this state, the
26 county treasurer shall:

27 (a) update the electronic record of title, if any, maintained for the vehicle by the department under
28 61-3-101;

29 (b) assign a registration period for the vehicle under 61-3-311;

30 (c) determine the vehicle's age, if required, under 61-3-501;

- 1 (d) determine the amount of fees, including local option taxes or fees, to be paid under subsection (5);
2 and
- 3 (e) assign and issue license plates for the vehicle under 61-3-331.
- 4 (5) Unless otherwise provided by law, a person registering a motor vehicle shall pay to the county
5 treasurer:
- 6 (a) the fees in lieu of tax or registration fees as required for:
- 7 (i) a light vehicle under 61-3-321 or 61-3-562, in addition to, if applicable, any local option tax or fee
8 under 61-3-537 or 61-3-570;
- 9 (ii) a motor home under 61-3-321;
- 10 (iii) a travel trailer under 61-3-321;
- 11 (iv) a motorcycle or quadricycle under 61-3-321;
- 12 (v) a bus, a truck having a manufacturer's rated capacity of more than 1 ton, or a truck tractor under
13 61-3-321 and 61-3-529; or
- 14 (vi) a trailer under 61-3-321;
- 15 (b) a donation of \$1 or more if the person indicates that the person wishes to donate to promote
16 awareness and education efforts for procurement of organ and tissue donations in Montana to favorably impact
17 anatomical gifts; and
- 18 (c) a donation of \$1 or more if the person indicates that the person wishes to donate to promote
19 education on, support for, and awareness of traumatic brain injury.
- 20 (6) The county treasurer may not issue a registration receipt or license plates for the motor vehicle,
21 trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer to the owner unless the owner makes the payments required by subsection (5).
- 22 (7) The department may make full and complete investigation of the registration status of the motor
23 vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer. A person seeking to register a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole
24 trailer under this section shall provide additional information to support the registration to the department if
25 requested.
- 26 (8) Revenue that accrues from the voluntary donation provided in subsection (5)(b) must be forwarded
27 by the respective county treasurer to the department of revenue for deposit in the state special revenue fund to
28 the credit of an account established by the department of public health and human services to support activities
29 related to awareness and education efforts for procurement of organ and tissue donations for anatomical gifts.
- 30 (9) (a) ~~Except as provided in subsection (9)(b), the~~ The fees in lieu of tax, taxes, and fees imposed on

1 or collected from the registration of a travel trailer, motorcycle, or quadricycle or a trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer
 2 that has a declared weight of less than 26,000 pounds are required to be paid only once during the time that the
 3 travel trailer, motorcycle, quadricycle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer is ~~owned by the same person who~~
 4 ~~registered the travel trailer, motorcycle, quadricycle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer~~ in existence. Once
 5 registered, a travel trailer, motorcycle, quadricycle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer is registered permanently
 6 ~~unless ownership is transferred~~.

7 (b) Whenever ownership of a travel trailer, motorcycle, quadricycle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer is
 8 transferred, the new owner ~~is required to register the travel trailer, motorcycle, quadricycle, trailer, semitrailer,~~
 9 ~~or pole trailer as if it were being registered for the first time, including paying all of the required fees in lieu of tax,~~
 10 ~~taxes, and fees~~ shall comply with the requirements governing certificates of title provided in Title 61, chapter 3,
 11 part 2, and shall pay the associated fees.

12 (10) Revenue that accrues from the voluntary donation provided in subsection (5)(c) must be forwarded
 13 by the respective county treasurer to the department of revenue for deposit in the state special revenue fund to
 14 the credit of the account established in 2-15-2218 to support activities related to education regarding prevention
 15 of traumatic brain injury."
 16

17 **Section 6.** Section 61-3-313, MCA, is amended to read:

18 **"61-3-313. Motor vehicles exempt from registration renewal.** ~~(4)~~ The following motor vehicles are
 19 exempt from the registration renewal requirements of 61-3-312:

20 ~~(a)~~(1) motor vehicles owned or leased and operated by the government of the United States or by the
 21 state of Montana or a political subdivision of the state;

22 ~~(b)~~(2) motor vehicles registered as part of a fleet under 61-3-318; ~~and~~

23 ~~(c)~~(3) apportionable motor vehicles registered as part of a fleet, as defined in 61-3-712, that is subject
 24 to the provisions of 61-3-711 through 61-3-733; ~~and~~;

25 ~~(2)~~(4) ~~Unless a transfer of ownership occurs,~~ a travel trailer, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, motorcycle,
 26 or quadricycle, including a motorcycle or quadricycle registered only for off-highway use under Title 23, chapter
 27 2, part 8, is all of which are permanently registered regardless of whether ownership is transferred."
 28

29 **Section 7.** Section 61-3-321, MCA, is amended to read:

30 **"61-3-321. Registration fees of vehicles and vessels -- certain vehicles exempt from registration**

1 **fees -- disposition of fees.** (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section, registration fees must be paid upon
 2 registration or, if applicable, renewal of registration of motor vehicles, snowmobiles, watercraft, trailers,
 3 semitrailers, and pole trailers as provided in subsections (2) through (19):

4 (2) Unless a light vehicle is permanently registered under 61-3-562, the annual registration fee for light
 5 vehicles, trucks and buses under 1 ton, and logging trucks less than 1 ton is as follows:

6 (a) if the vehicle is 4 or less years old, \$217;

7 (b) if the vehicle is 5 through 10 years old, \$87; and

8 (c) if the vehicle is 11 or more years old, \$28;

9 (3) ~~Except as provided in subsection (14), the~~ The one-time registration fee based on the declared
 10 weight of a trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer is as follows:

11 (a) if the declared weight is less than 6,000 pounds, \$61.25; or

12 (b) if the declared weight is 6,000 pounds or more, \$148.25.

13 (4) ~~Except as provided in subsection (14), the~~ The one-time registration fee for motor vehicles owned
 14 and operated solely as collector's items pursuant to 61-3-411, based on the weight of the vehicle, is as follows:

15 (a) 2,850 pounds and over, \$10; and

16 (b) under 2,850 pounds, \$5.

17 (5) ~~Except as provided in subsection (14), the~~ The one-time registration fee for off-highway vehicles other
 18 than a quadricycle or motorcycle is \$61.25.

19 (6) The annual registration fee for heavy trucks, buses, and logging trucks in excess of 1 ton is \$22.75.

20 (7) (a) The annual registration fee for a motor home, based on the age of the motor home, is as follows:

21 (i) less than 2 years old, \$282.50;

22 (ii) 2 years old and less than 5 years old, \$224.25;

23 (iii) 5 years old and less than 8 years old, \$132.50; and

24 (iv) 8 years old and older, \$97.50.

25 (b) The owner of a motor home that is 11 years old or older and that is subject to the registration fee
 26 under this section may permanently register the motor home upon payment of:

27 (i) a one-time registration fee of \$237.50; and

28 (ii) if applicable, five times the renewal fees for personalized license plates under 61-3-406.

29 (8) (a) ~~Except as provided in subsection (14), the~~ The one-time registration fee for motorcycles and
 30 quadricycles registered for use on public highways is \$53.25, and the one-time registration fee for motorcycles

1 and quadricycles registered for both off-road use and for use on the public highways is \$114.50.

2 (b) An additional fee of \$16 must be collected for the registration of each motorcycle or quadricycle as
3 a safety fee, which must be deposited in the state motorcycle safety account provided for in 20-25-1002.

4 (9) ~~Except as provided in subsection (14), the~~ The one-time registration fee for travel trailers, based on
5 the length of the travel trailer, is as follows:

6 (a) under 16 feet in length, \$72; and

7 (b) 16 feet in length or longer, \$152.

8 (10) ~~Except as provided in subsection (14), the~~ The one-time registration fee for a motorboat, sailboat,
9 personal watercraft, or motorized pontoon required to be numbered under 23-2-512 is as follows:

10 (a) for a personal watercraft or a motorboat, sailboat, or motorized pontoon less than 16 feet in length,
11 \$65.50;

12 (b) for a motorboat, sailboat, or motorized pontoon at least 16 feet in length but less than 19 feet in
13 length, \$125.50; and

14 (c) for a motorboat, sailboat, or motorized pontoon 19 feet in length or longer, \$295.50.

15 (11) (a) Except as provided in ~~subsections~~ subsection (11)(b) ~~and (14)~~, the one-time registration fee for
16 a snowmobile is \$60.50.

17 (b) (i) A snowmobile that is licensed by a Montana business and is owned exclusively for the purpose
18 of daily rental to customers is assessed:

19 (A) a fee of \$40.50 in the first year of registration; and

20 (B) if the business reregisters the snowmobile for a second year, a fee of \$20.

21 (ii) If the business reregisters the snowmobile for a third year, the snowmobile must be permanently
22 registered and the business is assessed the registration fee imposed in subsection (11)(a).

23 (12) A fee of \$5 must be collected when a new set of standard license plates, a new single standard
24 license plate, or a replacement set of special license plates required under 61-3-332 is issued. The \$5 fee
25 imposed under this subsection does not apply when previously issued license plates are transferred under
26 61-3-335. All registration fees imposed under this section must be paid if the vehicle to which the plates are
27 transferred is not currently registered.

28 (13) The provisions of this part with respect to the payment of registration fees do not apply to and are
29 not binding upon motor vehicles, trailers, semitrailers, snowmobiles, watercraft, or tractors owned or controlled
30 by the United States of America or any state, county, city, or special district, as defined in 18-8-202, or to a vehicle

1 or vessel that meets the description of property exempt from taxation under 15-6-201(1)(a), (1)(c), (1)(d), (1)(e),
2 (1)(f), (1)(g), (1)(i), (1)(j), (1)(l), or (1)(m), 15-6-203, or 15-6-215, except as provided in 61-3-520.

3 (14) Whenever ownership of a trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, off-highway vehicle, motorcycle,
4 quadricycle, travel trailer, motor home, motorboat, sailboat, personal watercraft, motorized pontoon, snowmobile,
5 or motor vehicle owned and operated solely as a collector's item pursuant to 61-3-411 is transferred, ~~the new~~
6 ~~owner shall title and register the vehicle or vessel as required by this chapter and pay the fees imposed under~~
7 ~~this section~~ the item continues to be registered and no additional registration fees may be imposed except for the
8 fees associated with transfer of the certificate of title required under Title 61, chapter 3, part 2, and fees to replace
9 a lost, mutilated, or illegible license plate or registration decal.

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

11 (16) Except as otherwise provided in this section, revenue collected under this section must be deposited
12 in the state general fund.

13 (17) The fees imposed by subsections (2) through (11) are not required to be paid by a dealer for the
14 enumerated vehicles or vessels that constitute inventory of the dealership.

15 (18) (a) Unless a person exercises the option in subsection (18)(b), an additional fee of \$4 must be
16 collected for each light vehicle registered under this part. This fee must be accounted for and transmitted
17 separately from the registration fee. The fee must be deposited in an account in the state special revenue fund
18 to be used for state parks, for fishing access sites, and for the operation of state-owned facilities. Of the \$4 fee,
19 the department of fish, wildlife, and parks shall use \$3.50 for state parks, 25 cents for fishing access sites, and
20 25 cents for the operation of state-owned facilities at Virginia City and Nevada City.

21 (b) A person who registers a light vehicle may, at the time of annual registration, certify that the person
22 does not intend to use the vehicle to visit state parks and fishing access sites and may make a written election
23 not to pay the additional \$4 fee provided for in subsection (18)(a). If a written election is made, the fee may not
24 be collected.

25 (19) For each light vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, heavy truck, motor home, motorcycle,
26 quadricycle, and travel trailer subject to a registration fee under this section, an additional fee of \$5 must be
27 collected and forwarded to the state for deposit in the account established in 44-1-504.

28 (20) This section does not apply to a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer that is governed by
29 61-3-721."
30

1 **Section 8.** Section 61-3-322, MCA, is amended to read:

2 **"61-3-322. Registration receipts -- issuance.** (1) Upon completion of the original registration or
3 registration renewal process, the department, an authorized agent, or a county treasurer shall issue a registration
4 receipt to the owner of the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer.

5 (2) ~~(a) The~~ For a motor vehicle that is subject to registration renewal, the registration receipt must contain
6 the name and address of the owner of the motor vehicle, ~~trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer,~~ the license plate
7 number assigned to the motor vehicle, ~~trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer,~~ sufficient information to identify the
8 registered motor vehicle, ~~trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer~~ and determine its registration date and period of
9 registration, and any additional information required by rule.

10 **(b)** For a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer that is permanently registered and that is not
11 required to be registered by a new owner upon transfer of ownership, the registration receipt must contain the
12 name and address of the original owner, any identification number assigned to the motor vehicle, trailer,
13 semitrailer, or pole trailer, sufficient information to identify the registered motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole
14 trailer, a statement of permanent registration, and any additional information required by rule.

15 (3) The registration receipt must at all times be carried in the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole
16 trailer to which it refers or must be carried by the person driving or in control of the motor vehicle, trailer,
17 semitrailer, or pole trailer, who shall display it upon demand of a peace officer or any officer or employee of the
18 department or the department of transportation."

19

20 **Section 9.** Section 61-3-332, MCA, is amended to read:

21 **"61-3-332. Standard license plates.** (1) In addition to special license plates, collegiate license plates,
22 generic specialty license plates, and fleet license plates authorized under this chapter, a separate series of
23 standard license plates must be issued for motor vehicles, quadricycles, travel trailers, trailers, semitrailers, and
24 pole trailers registered in this state or offered for sale by a vehicle dealer licensed in this state. Standard license
25 plates issued to licensed vehicle dealers must be readily distinguishable from license plates issued to vehicles
26 owned by other persons.

27 (2) (a) Except as provided in 61-3-479 and subsections (2)(b), (3)(b), and (3)(c) of this section, all
28 standard license plates for motor vehicles, trailers, semitrailers, or pole trailers must bear a distinctive marking,
29 as determined by the department, and be furnished by the department. In years when standard license plates
30 are not issued, the department shall provide a registration decal that must be affixed to the rear license plate of

1 the vehicle.

2 (b) For light vehicles that are permanently registered as provided in 61-3-562 and motor vehicles
3 described in 61-3-303(9) that are permanently registered, the department shall provide a distinctive registration
4 decal indicating that the motor vehicle is permanently registered. The registration decal must be affixed to the rear
5 license plate of the permanently registered motor vehicle.

6 (3) (a) Beginning January 1, 2010, and every 4 years after that date, the department shall manufacture
7 and issue new standard license plates to replace previously issued standard license plates upon renewal.

8 (b) A motor vehicle that is registered for a 13-month to a 24-month period, as provided in 61-3-311, may
9 display the license plate and plate design in effect at the time of registration for the entire registration period.

10 (c) A light vehicle described in subsection (2)(b) or a motor home that is permanently registered may
11 display the license plate and plate design in effect at the time of registration for the entire period that the light
12 vehicle or motor home is permanently registered.

13 (4) For trailers and motor vehicles, other than motorcycles and quadricycles, plates must be of metal 6
14 inches wide and 12 inches in length. Except for generic specialty license plates, the outline of the state of
15 Montana must be used as a distinctive border on all license plates, and the word "Montana" must be placed on
16 each license plate. All license plates must be treated with a reflectorized background material according to
17 specifications prescribed by the department.

18 (5) The distinctive registration numbers for standard license plates must begin with a number one or with
19 a letter-number combination, such as "A 1" or "AA 1", or any other similar combination of letters and numbers.
20 Except for special license plates, collegiate license plates, generic specialty license plates, and fleet license
21 plates, the distinctive registration number or letter-number combination assigned to the motor vehicle must appear
22 on the plate preceded by the number of the county and appearing in horizontal order on the same horizontal
23 baseline. The county number must be separated from the distinctive registration number by a separation mark
24 unless a letter-number combination is used. The dimensions of the numerals and letters must be determined by
25 the department, and all county and registration numbers must be of equal height.

26 (6) For the use of exempt motor vehicles, trailers, semitrailers, or pole trailers and motor vehicles,
27 trailers, semitrailers, or pole trailers that are exempt from the registration fee as provided in 61-3-321, in addition
28 to the markings provided in this section, standard license plates must bear the following distinctive markings:

29 (a) For motor vehicles, trailers, semitrailers, or pole trailers owned by the state, the department may
30 designate the prefix number for the various state departments. All numbered plates issued to state departments

1 must bear the words "State Owned", and a year number may not be indicated on the plates because these
2 numbered plates are of a permanent nature and will be replaced by the department only when the physical
3 condition of numbered plates requires it.

4 (b) For motor vehicles, trailers, semitrailers, or pole trailers that are owned by the counties,
5 municipalities, and special districts, as defined in 18-8-202, organized under the laws of Montana and not
6 operating for profit, and that are used and operated by officials and employees in the line of duty and for motor
7 vehicles on loan from the United States government or the state of Montana to, or owned by, the civil air patrol
8 and used and operated by officials and employees in the line of duty, there must be placed on the standard
9 license plates assigned, in a position that the department may designate, the letter "X" or the word "EXEMPT".
10 Distinctive registration numbers for plates assigned to motor vehicles, trailers, semitrailers, or pole trailers of each
11 of the counties in the state and those of the municipalities and special districts that obtain plates within each
12 county must begin with number one and be numbered consecutively. Because these standard license plates are
13 of a permanent nature, they are subject to replacement by the department only when the physical condition of
14 the license plates requires it and a year number may not be displayed on the plates.

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

24 (8) (a) Each type of special license plate approved by the legislature, except collegiate license plates
25 authorized in 61-3-463 and generic specialty license plates authorized in 61-3-472 through 61-3-481, must be
26 a separate series of plates, numbered as provided in subsection (5), except that the county number must be
27 replaced by a design that distinguishes each separate plate series. Unless otherwise specifically stated in this
28 section, the special plates are subject to the same rules and laws as govern the issuance of standard license
29 plates, must be placed or mounted on a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer owned by the person who
30 is eligible to receive them, with the registration decal affixed to the rear license plate of the motor vehicle, trailer,

1 semitrailer, or pole trailer, and, unless the item is permanently registered, must be removed upon sale or other
2 disposition of the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer.

3 (b) Beginning January 1, 2008, and every succeeding 4 years, the department shall manufacture and
4 issue a new set of special license plates, bearing the same design and, if requested by the owner, the same plate
5 number to replace, upon renewal of the registration of a motor vehicle under 61-3-314 and payment of the new
6 plate fee provided for in 61-3-321, any special license plates issued prior to the prescribed date. This requirement
7 applies to collegiate license plates authorized under 61-3-461 through 61-3-468, generic specialty license plates
8 authorized under 61-3-472 through 61-3-481, and commemorative centennial license plates authorized under
9 61-3-448.

10 (9) (a) A Montana resident who is eligible to receive a special parking permit under 49-4-301 may, upon
11 written application on a form prescribed by the department, be issued a special license plate with a design or
12 decal bearing a representation of a wheelchair as the symbol of a person with a disability.

13 (b) If the motor vehicle to which the license plate is attached is permanently registered, the owner of the
14 motor vehicle shall provide, upon request of a person authorized to enforce special parking laws or ordinances
15 in this or any state, evidence of continued eligibility to use the license plate in the form of a valid special parking
16 permit issued to or renewed by the vehicle owner under 49-4-304 and 49-4-305.

17 (c) A person with a permanent condition, as provided in 49-4-301(2)(b), who has been issued a special
18 license plate upon written application, as provided in this subsection (9), is not required to reapply upon
19 reregistration of the motor vehicle.

20 (10) The provisions of this section do not apply to a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer that
21 is registered as part of a fleet, as defined in 61-3-712, and that is subject to the provisions of 61-3-711 through
22 61-3-733."

23

24 **Section 10.** Section 61-3-411, MCA, is amended to read:

25 **"61-3-411. Registration of motor vehicle owned and operated solely as collector's item.** (1) An
26 owner of a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer that is more than 30 years old and that is used solely
27 as a collector's item and is not used for general transportation purposes may file with the department an
28 application for the registration of the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer. The application must be
29 sworn to before an officer authorized to administer oaths. The application must state:

30 (a) the name and address of the owner;

1 (b) the name and address of the person from whom the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer
2 was purchased;

3 (c) the make, the gross weight, the year and number of the model, and the manufacturer's identification
4 number and serial number of the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer; and

5 (d) that the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer is owned and operated solely as a collector's
6 item and not for general transportation purposes.

7 (2) Upon receipt of the application for registration and payment of the registration fees, including fees
8 in lieu of tax, the department shall file the application and register the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole
9 trailer in the manner specified in 61-3-303 and, unless the applicant chooses to exercise the option allowed in
10 61-3-412, shall deliver to the applicant:

11 (a) for a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer manufactured in 1933 or earlier, two license
12 plates bearing the inscription "Pioneer--Montana" and the registration number; or

13 (b) for a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer manufactured in 1934 or later and more than
14 30 years old, two license plates bearing the inscription "Vintage--Montana" and the registration number.

15 (3) The year of issuance may not be shown on the plates.

16 (4) Annual renewal of the registration of a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer registered
17 under this section is not required, and the registration is valid as long as the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or
18 pole trailer is in existence ~~and owned by the initial registrant."~~

19

20 NEW SECTION. **Section 11. Effective date.** [This act] is effective January 1, 2010.

21

- END -