

Montana Department of Justice
HB 636 – Revise Motor Vehicle Laws

EXHIBIT 2
DATE 3/25/11
HB 636

HB 636 is a clean-up bill that tweaks several laws related to titling and registration of vehicles and one pertaining to driver licenses. Primary focus is on vehicles designed for off-road use and used off-road, on highways, or both or just on private property.

It includes new definitions:

- Low speed electric vehicle – p. 9 (HB 213 ↔ 25/40 mph, as amended)
- Golf cart – p. 9 (HB213/HB 277, compatible)
- Minitruck - p. 11 – plus HB063601.amm, #2
- Utility vehicle – p. 18

It revises definitions for:

- Motorcycle – p. 12 – plus HB063601.amm, #3
- Motor vehicle – p. 13
- Off-highway vehicle – p. 4 (MCA Title 23) & p. 13 (Title 61)
- Quadricycle –p. 14

To incorporate the new vehicle types, many sections of Title 61 were changed to include motorcycle, quadricycle and utility vehicle in the enumeration of vehicle types. Other than the incorporation of vehicle types, substantive changes were not made except as follows:

- To specify when an off-road vehicle may be titled but not registered because vehicle is only operated on private property – p. 34, lines 12-13; p. 42, lines 18-20.
- To recognize that some off-road vehicles may be sold without a manufacturer's certificate of origin and are sold by farm implement dealers rather than power sports dealers – p. 30, lines 4-6; p. 27, line 22-p.28, line 3; p. 59, lines 7-8.
- To provide a temporary registration permit (40-day) to allow nonresidents to temporarily operate a quadricycle or utility vehicle on highways while recreating in Montana – p. 37, lines 15-17.

When incorporating utility vehicle into sections of Title 61 law pertaining to mandatory liability insurance (chapter 6), rules of the rule (chapter 8), equipment (chapter 9) or occupant protection (chapter 13), utility vehicles were treated the same as a quadricycle. Note: Expect a floor amendment to remove exemption from seatbelt requirement.

HB 636 also:

- Authorizes the Motor Vehicle Division (MVD) authority to pilot an expedited titling service for an optional fee for customers who have extenuating circumstances – p. 9, lines 22-25.
- Extends ability to display a military license plate to quadricycles and utility vehicles – p. 52, line 1.
- Gives MVD authority to adopt rules that would allow nonresident boat owners to register their boats in Montana if the boats are moored in Montana. MVD would work with FWP on these rules – p. 54, lines 16-19.
- Changes language regarding how organ donor status is denoted on driver licenses and identification cards to comport with current practice (the heart symbol) – p. 62.