

1 _____ BILL NO. _____

2 INTRODUCED BY _____
3 (Primary Sponsor)

4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REVISING LICENSE PLATE LAWS; ENDING THE
5 REQUIREMENT FOR THE 5-YEAR REPLACEMENT OF LICENSE PLATES; REQUIRING THE
6 REPLACEMENT OF LICENSE PLATES ON PERMANENT REGISTRATION, OR IF THE LICENSE PLATE
7 BECOMES ILLEGIBLE; AND AMENDING SECTIONS 61-3-321, 61-3-332, 61-3-333, AND 61-14-101, MCA."

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

10
11 **Section 1.** Section 61-3-321, MCA, is amended to read:

12 **"61-3-321. Registration fees of vehicles and vessels -- certain vehicles exempt from**

13 **registration fees -- disposition of fees -- definition.** (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section,
14 registration fees must be paid upon registration or, if applicable, renewal of registration of motor vehicles,
15 snowmobiles, watercraft, trailers, semitrailers, and pole trailers as provided in subsections (2) through (20).

16 (2) (a) Except as provided in subsection (2)(b), unless a light vehicle is permanently registered under
17 61-3-562, the annual registration fee for light vehicles, trucks, and buses that weigh 1 ton or less and for
18 logging trucks that weigh 1 ton or less is as follows:

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

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

21 (iii) if the vehicle is 11 or more years old, \$28.

22 (b) For a light vehicle with a manufacturer's suggested retail price of more than \$150,000 that is 10
23 years old or less, the annual registration fee is the amount provided for in subsection (2)(a) plus \$825.

24 (3) (a) Except as provided in subsections (3)(b) and (15), the one-time registration fee based on the
25 declared weight of a trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer is as follows:

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

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

28 (b) For a trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer that is registered under 61-3-701, the annual registration

1 fee based on the declared weight is as follows:

2 (i) if the declared weight is less than 6,000 pounds, \$30; or

3 (ii) if the declared weight is 6,000 pounds or more, \$60.

4 (4) Except as provided in subsection (15), the one-time registration fee for motor vehicles owned and
5 operated solely as collector's items pursuant to 61-3-411, based on the weight of the vehicle, is as follows:

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

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

8 (5) (a) Except as provided in subsections (5)(b) and (15), the one-time registration fee for off-highway
9 vehicles other than a quadricycle or motorcycle is \$61.25.

10 (b) Whenever a valid summer motorized recreation trail pass issued pursuant to 23-2-111 is affixed to
11 an off-highway vehicle other than a quadricycle or motorcycle, the one-time registration fee is \$41.25.

12 (6) The annual registration fee for heavy trucks, buses, and logging trucks in excess of 1 ton is
13 \$22.75.

14 (7) (a) Except as provided in subsection (7)(c), the annual registration fee for a motor home, based
15 on the age of the motor home, is as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

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

23 (ii) unless a new set of license plates is being issued, an insurance verification fee of \$5, which must
24 be deposited in the account established under 61-6-158;

25 (iii) if applicable, five times the renewal fees for personalized license plates under 61-3-406; and

26 (iv) if applicable, the donation fee for a generic specialty license plate under 61-3-480 or a collegiate
27 license plate under 61-3-465.

28 (c) For a motor home with a manufacturer's suggested retail price of more than \$300,000 that is 10

1 years old or less, the annual registration fee is the amount provided in subsection (7)(a) plus \$800.

2 (8) (a) (i) Except as provided in subsections (8)(b), (8)(c), and (15), the one-time registration fee for
3 motorcycles and quadricycles registered for use on the public highways is \$53.25, the one-time registration fee
4 for motorcycles and quadricycles registered for off-highway use is \$53.25, and the one-time registration fee for
5 motorcycles and quadricycles registered for both off-road use and for use on the public highways is \$114.50.

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

8 (b) (i) The annual registration fee for motorcycles and quadricycles registered for use on the public
9 highways under 61-3-701 is \$44.

10 (ii) The annual registration fee for motorcycles and quadricycles registered for off-highway use under
11 61-3-701 is \$44.

12 (iii) The annual registration fee for motorcycles and quadricycles registered for both off-road use and
13 for use on the public highways under 61-3-701 is \$88.

14 (iv) An additional safety fee of \$7 must be collected annually for each motorcycle or quadricycle
15 registered under 61-3-701. The safety fee must be deposited in the state motorcycle safety account provided
16 for in 20-25-1002.

17 (c) Whenever a valid summer motorized recreation trail pass issued pursuant to 23-2-111 is affixed to
18 a motorcycle or quadricycle, the one-time registration fee for motorcycles and quadricycles registered for:

19 (i) use on the public highways is \$33.25; and

20 (ii) both off-road use and for use on the public highways is \$94.50.

21 (9) Except as provided in subsection (15), the one-time registration fee for travel trailers, based on the
22 length of the travel trailer, is as follows:

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

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

25 (10) Except as provided in subsection (15), the one-time registration fee for a motorboat, sailboat,
26 personal watercraft, or motorized pontoon required to be numbered under 23-2-512 is as follows:

27 (a) for a personal watercraft or a motorboat, sailboat, or motorized pontoon less than 16 feet in length,
28 \$65.50;

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

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

4 (11) (a) Except as provided in subsections (11)(b), (11)(c), and (15), the one-time registration fee for a
5 snowmobile is \$60.50.

6 (b) Whenever a valid snowmobile trail pass issued pursuant to 23-2-636 is affixed to a snowmobile,
7 the one-time registration fee is \$40.50.

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

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

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

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

14 (12) (a) The one-time registration fee for a low-speed electric vehicle is \$25.

15 (b) The one-time registration fee for a golf cart that is owned by a person who has or is applying for a
16 low-speed restricted driver's license is \$25.

17 (c) The one-time registration fee for golf carts authorized to operate on certain public streets and
18 highways pursuant to 61-8-391 is \$25. Upon receipt of the fee, the department shall issue the owner a decal,
19 which must be displayed visibly on the golf cart.

20 (13) (a) Except as provided in subsection (13)(b), a fee of \$10 must be collected when a new set of
21 standard license plates, a new single standard license plate, or a replacement set of special license plates
22 required under 61-3-332 is issued. The \$10 fee imposed under this subsection does not apply when previously
23 issued license plates are transferred under 61-3-335. All registration fees imposed under this section must be
24 paid if the vehicle to which the plates are transferred is not currently registered.

25 (b) An additional fee of \$15 must be collected if a vehicle owner elects to keep the same license plate
26 number from license plates issued before January 1, 2010, when replacement of those plates is required under
27 61-3-332(3).

28 (c) The fees imposed in this subsection (13) must be deposited in the account established under 61-

1 6-158, except that \$2 of the fee imposed in subsection (13)(a) must be deposited in the state general fund.

2 (14) The provisions of this part with respect to the payment of registration fees do not apply to and are
3 not binding upon motor vehicles, trailers, semitrailers, snowmobiles, watercraft, or tractors owned or controlled
4 by the United States of America or any state, county, city, or special district, as defined in 18-8-202, or to a
5 vehicle or vessel that meets the description of property exempt from taxation under 15-6-201(1)(a), (1)(d),
6 (1)(e), (1)(g), (1)(h), (1)(i), (1)(k), (1)(l), (1)(n), or (1)(o), 15-6-203, or 15-6-215, except as provided in 61-3-520.

7 (15) Whenever ownership of a trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, off-highway vehicle, motorcycle,
8 quadricycle, travel trailer, motor home, motorboat, sailboat, personal watercraft, motorized pontoon,
9 snowmobile, motor vehicle owned and operated solely as a collector's item pursuant to 61-3-411, or low-speed
10 electric vehicle is transferred, the new owner shall title and register the vehicle or vessel as required by this
11 chapter and pay the fees imposed under this section.

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

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

15 (18) The fees imposed by subsections (2) through (12) are not required to be paid by a dealer for the
16 enumerated vehicles or vessels that constitute inventory of the dealership.

17 (19) (a) Unless a person exercises the option in either subsection (19)(b) or (19)(c), an additional fee
18 of \$9 must be collected for each light vehicle registered under this part. This fee must be accounted for and
19 transmitted separately from the registration fee. Of the \$9 fee:

20 (i) \$6.74 must be deposited in the state special revenue account established in 23-1-105 and used for
21 state parks;

22 (ii) 50 cents must be deposited in an account in the state special revenue fund to the credit of the
23 department of fish, wildlife, and parks and used for fishing access sites;

24 (iii) \$1.37 must be deposited in the trails and recreation facilities state special revenue account
25 established in 23-2-108; and

26 (iv) 39 cents must be deposited in the Montana heritage preservation and development account
27 established in 22-3-1004 and used for the operation of state-owned facilities at Virginia City and Nevada City.

28 (b) A person who registers a light vehicle may, at the time of annual registration, certify that the

1 person does not intend to use the vehicle to visit state parks and fishing access sites and may make a written
 2 election not to pay the additional \$9 fee provided for in subsection (19)(a). If a written election is made, the fee
 3 may not be collected.

4 (c) (i) A person who registers one or more light vehicles may, at the time of annual registration, certify
 5 that the person does not intend to use any of the vehicles to visit state parks and fishing access sites and may
 6 make a written election not to pay the additional \$9 fee provided for in subsection (19)(a). If a written election is
 7 made, the fee may not be collected at any subsequent annual registration unless the person makes the written
 8 election to pay the additional fee on one or more of the light vehicles.

9 (ii) The written election not to pay the additional fee on a light vehicle expires if the vehicle is registered
 10 to a different person.

11 (20) For each light vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, heavy truck, motor home, motorcycle,
 12 quadricycle, and travel trailer subject to a registration fee under this section, an additional fee of \$10 must be
 13 collected and forwarded to the state for deposit in the account established in 44-1-504.

14 (21) (a) If a person exercises the option in subsection (21)(b), an additional fee of \$5 must be
 15 collected for each light vehicle registered under this part. This fee must be accounted for and transmitted
 16 separately from the registration fee. The fee must be deposited in an account in the state special revenue fund.
 17 Funds in the account are statutorily appropriated, as provided in 17-7-502, to the department of transportation
 18 and must be allocated as provided in 60-3-309.

19 (b) A person who registers one or more light vehicles may, at the time of annual registration, make a
 20 written or electronic election to pay the additional \$5 fee provided for in subsection (21)(a).

21 (22) This section does not apply to a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer that is governed
 22 by 61-3-721.

23 (23) (a) The \$800 and \$825 amounts collected based on the manufacturer's suggested retail price in
 24 subsections (2) and (7) are exempt from the provisions of 15-1-122 and must be deposited in the motor vehicle
 25 division administration account established in 61-3-112.

26 (b) By August 15 of each year, beginning in the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2019, the department of
 27 justice shall deposit into the general fund an amount equal to the fiscal yearend balance minus 25% of the
 28 current fiscal year appropriation for the account established in 61-3-112.

1 (24) For the purposes of this section, "manufacturer's suggested retail price" means the price
2 suggested by a manufacturer for each given type, style, or model of a light vehicle or motor home produced and
3 first made available for retail sale by the manufacturer."
4

5 **Section 2.** Section 61-3-332, MCA, is amended to read:

6 **"61-3-332. Standard license plates.** (1) In addition to special license plates, collegiate license plates,
7 generic specialty license plates, and fleet license plates authorized under this chapter, a separate series of
8 standard license plates must be issued for motor vehicles, quadricycles, travel trailers, trailers, semitrailers, and
9 pole trailers registered in this state or offered for sale by a vehicle dealer licensed in this state. Standard license
10 plates issued to licensed vehicle dealers must be readily distinguishable from license plates issued to vehicles
11 owned by other persons.

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

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

21 (c) For a travel trailer, motorcycle, quadricycle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer that is permanently
22 registered as provided in 61-3-313(2), the department may use the word or an abbreviation for the word
23 "permanent" on the plate in lieu of issuing a registration decal for the plate.

24 (3) (a) (i) New license plates issued under 61-3-303 or this section must be a standard license plate
25 design first issued in 1989 or later or current collegiate or generic specialty license plate designs. For the
26 purposes of this subsection (3), all military, veteran, and amateur radio license plates and any license plate with
27 a wheelchair design, excluding collegiate or generic specialty plates with a wheelchair design, are treated as
28 standard license plates.

1 (ii) License plates issued on or after January 1, 2010, must be replaced with new license plates if,
2 ~~upon renewal of registration under 61-3-312, the license plates are 5 or more years old or will become older~~
3 ~~than 5 years during the registration period. New license plates must be issued in accordance with the~~
4 ~~implementation schedule adopted by the department under 61-14-101.~~ on permanent registration of a vehicle.

5 (iii) A vehicle owner may elect to keep the same license plate number from license plates issued
6 before January 1, 2010, when replacement of those plates is required under this subsection.

7 (b) A motor vehicle that is registered for a 13-month to a 24-month period, as provided in 61-3-311,
8 may display the license plate and plate design in effect at the time of registration for the entire registration
9 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 (d) The provisions of this subsection (3) do not apply to a travel trailer, motorcycle, quadricycle, trailer,
14 semitrailer, or pole trailer.

15 (e) The requirements of this subsection (3) apply to collegiate license plates authorized under 61-3-
16 461 through 61-3-468, generic specialty license plates authorized under 61-3-472 through 61-3-481,
17 commemorative centennial license plates authorized under 61-3-448, and special military or veteran license
18 plates authorized under 61-3-458.

19 (4) (a) All license plates must be metal and treated with a reflectorized background material
20 according to specifications prescribed by the department. The word "Montana" must be placed on each license
21 plate and, except for license plates that are 4 inches wide and 7 inches in length, the outline of the state of
22 Montana must be used as a distinctive border on each standard license plate.

23 (b) Plates for semitrailers, travel trailers, pole trailers, trailers with a declared weight of 6,000 pounds
24 or more, and motor vehicles, other than motorcycles and quadricycles, must be 6 inches wide and 12 inches in
25 length.

26 (c) Plates for motorcycles and quadricycles must be 4 inches wide and 7 inches in length.

27 (d) The department shall issue plates that are 4 inches wide and 7 inches in length for trailers with a
28 declared weight of less than 6,000 pounds unless a person registering a trailer with a declared weight of less

1 than 6,000 pounds requests plates that are 6 inches wide and 12 inches in length. A person registering a trailer
 2 shall pay all applicable fees for the plates chosen.

3 (5) The distinctive registration numbers for standard license plates must begin with a number one or
 4 with a letter-number combination, such as "A 1" or "AA 1", or any other similar combination of letters and
 5 numbers. Except for special license plates, collegiate license plates, generic specialty license plates, fleet
 6 license plates, and standard license plates that are 4 inches wide and 7 inches in length, the distinctive
 7 registration number or letter-number combination assigned to the motor vehicle must appear on the plate
 8 preceded by the number of the county and appearing in horizontal order on the same horizontal baseline. The
 9 county number must be separated from the distinctive registration number by a separation mark unless a letter-
 10 number combination is used. The dimensions of the numerals and letters must be determined by the
 11 department, and all county and registration numbers must be of equal height.

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

16 (a) For motor vehicles, trailers, semitrailers, or pole trailers owned by the state, the department may
 17 designate the prefix number for the various state departments. All numbered plates issued to state departments
 18 must bear the words "State Owned", and a year number may not be indicated on the plates because these
 19 numbered plates are of a permanent nature and will be replaced by the department only when the physical
 20 condition of numbered plates requires it.

21 (b) For motor vehicles, trailers, semitrailers, or pole trailers that are owned by the counties,
 22 municipalities, and special districts, as defined in 18-8-202, organized under the laws of Montana and not
 23 operating for profit, and that are used and operated by officials and employees in the line of duty and for motor
 24 vehicles on loan from the United States government or the state of Montana to, or owned by, the civil air patrol
 25 and used and operated by officials and employees in the line of duty, there must be placed on the standard
 26 license plates assigned, in a position that the department may designate, the letter "X" or the word "EXEMPT".
 27 Distinctive registration numbers for plates assigned to motor vehicles, trailers, semitrailers, or pole trailers of
 28 each of the counties in the state and those of the municipalities and special districts that obtain plates within

1 each county must begin with number one and be numbered consecutively. Because these standard license
 2 plates are of a permanent nature, they are subject to replacement by the department only when the physical
 3 condition of the license plates requires it and a year number may not be displayed on the plates.

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

13 (8) Each type of special license plate approved by the legislature, except collegiate license plates
 14 authorized in 61-3-463 and generic specialty license plates authorized in 61-3-472 through 61-3-481, must be a
 15 separate series of plates, numbered as provided in subsection (5), except that the county number must be
 16 replaced by a design that distinguishes each separate plate series. Unless otherwise specifically stated in this
 17 section, the special plates are subject to the same rules and laws as govern the issuance of standard license
 18 plates, must be placed or mounted on a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer owned by the person
 19 who is eligible to receive them, with the registration decal affixed to the rear license plate of the motor vehicle,
 20 trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer, and must be removed upon sale or other disposition of the motor vehicle,
 21 trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer.

22 (9) (a) A Montana resident who is eligible to receive a special parking permit under 49-4-301 may
 23 and a person with a low-speed restricted driver's license operating a low-speed electric vehicle or golf cart as
 24 provided in 61-5-122 must, upon written application on a form prescribed by the department, be issued a
 25 special license plate with a design or decal bearing a representation of a wheelchair as the symbol of a person
 26 with a disability.

27 (b) If the motor vehicle to which the license plate is attached is permanently registered, the owner of
 28 the motor vehicle shall provide, upon request of a person authorized to enforce special parking laws or

1 ordinances in this or any state, evidence of continued eligibility to use the license plate in the form of a valid
2 special parking permit issued to or renewed by the vehicle owner under 49-4-304 and 49-4-305.

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

6 (10) The provisions of this section do not apply to a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer that
7 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
8 61-3-733."

9

10 **Section 3.** Section 61-3-333, MCA, is amended to read:

11 **"61-3-333. Replacing license plates or decals.** (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), if one or
12 both license plates registered to a motor vehicle, quadricycle, travel trailer, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer or
13 the registration decal for the motor vehicle, quadricycle, travel trailer, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer is
14 mutilated or ~~destroyed~~ destroyed or becomes illegible, the owner of the registered motor vehicle or trailer may
15 obtain a set of replacement license plates, a replacement license plate, or a duplicate registration decal upon
16 filing a sworn declaration stating that fact and payment of a fee of \$10.

17 (2) If the owner requests that the replacement license plate or plates bear the same background and
18 license plate number as the plate or plates that were destroyed or ~~mutilated~~ mutilated or became illegible, the
19 duplicate license plate or plates may be issued upon payment of a fee of \$15.

20 (3) The fees imposed in this section must be deposited in the account established in 61-6-158, except
21 that \$2 of the fee imposed in subsection (1) must be deposited in the state general fund."

22

23 **Section 4.** Section 61-14-101, MCA, is amended to read:

24 **"61-14-101. Rulemaking authority -- vehicle services.** (1) The department shall adopt rules for the
25 registration of motor vehicles, including:

26 (a) simultaneous registration of multiple motor vehicles that have common ownership;

27 (b) verification of compliance with 61-6-301 before registering or renewing a registration of a vehicle
28 or issuing new license plates required by 61-3-332(3);

1 ~~(e)~~—devising a method to place license plates on the 5-year reissuance cycle to minimize production
2 peaks and valleys;

3 ~~(d)~~(c) early registration renewals when an owner of a motor vehicle presents extenuating
4 circumstances; and

5 ~~(e)~~(d) automated mailing of license plates by the department or its authorized agent, including an
6 agent under contract with the department pursuant to 61-3-338.

7 (2) The department shall adopt rules to procure compliance with all of the laws of the state regulating
8 the issuance of motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer licenses relating to the use and operation of
9 motor vehicles, trailers, semitrailers, or pole trailers before issuing the lettered license plates pursuant to 61-3-
10 423.

11 (3) The department may adopt rules to establish vehicle brands or carried-forward brands according
12 to 61-3-202.

13 (4) The department may adopt rules governing affidavit and bond for certificate of title pursuant to 61-
14 3-208.

15 (5) The department may adopt rules for the implementation and administration of temporary
16 registration permits, pursuant to 61-3-224, including issuance to:

17 (a) a Montana resident who acquires a new or used motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer,
18 motorboat, sailboat that is 12 feet or longer, snowmobile, or off-highway vehicle for operation of the vehicle or
19 vessel prior to titling and registration of the vehicle or vessel under Title 61, chapter 3;

20 (b) the owner of a salvage vehicle or a vehicle requiring a state-assigned vehicle identification number
21 to move the vehicle to and from a designated inspection site prior to applying for a new certificate of title under
22 61-3-107 or 61-3-212;

23 (c) the owner of a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer registered in this state for operation
24 of the vehicle while awaiting production and receipt of special or duplicate license plates ordered for a vehicle
25 under Title 61, chapter 3;

26 (d) a nonresident of this state who acquires a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer in this
27 state for operation of the vehicle prior to its titling and registration under the laws of the nonresident's
28 jurisdiction of residence;

1 (e) a dealer licensed in another state who brings a motor vehicle or trailer designed and used to apply
2 fertilizer to agricultural lands into the state for special demonstration in this state;

3 (f) a financial institution located in Montana for a prospective purchaser to demonstrate a motor
4 vehicle that the financial institution has obtained following repossession;

5 (g) an insurer or its agent to move a motor vehicle or trailer to auction following acquisition of the
6 vehicle by the insurer as a result of the settlement of an insurance claim;

7 (h) a nonresident owner to temporarily operate a quadricycle or motorcycle designed for off-road
8 recreational use on the highways of this state when the quadricycle or motorcycle designed for off-road
9 recreational use is equipped for use on the highways as prescribed in Title 61, chapter 9, but the quadricycle or
10 motorcycle designated for off-road recreational use is not registered or is only registered for off-road use in the
11 nonresident's home state; or

12 (i) a new owner of a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, motorboat, sailboat that is 12 feet in
13 length or longer, snowmobile, or off-highway vehicle for which the new owner cannot, due to circumstances
14 beyond the new owner's control, surrender a previously assigned certification of title.

15 (6) The department may adopt rules for the assessment and collection of registration fees on light
16 vehicles under 61-3-321 and 61-3-562, including the proration of fees under 61-3-520 and criteria for
17 determining the motor vehicle's age.

18 (7) The department may adopt rules for imposing and collecting fees in lieu of tax, including:

19 (a) the proration of fees in lieu of tax under 61-3-520 on buses, trucks having a manufacturer's rated
20 capacity of more than 1 ton, and truck tractors;

21 (b) criteria for determining the motor vehicle's age; and

22 (c) criteria for determining the manufacturer's rated capacity.

23 (8) The department may adopt rules, pursuant to Title 61, chapter 3, for the administration of fees for
24 trailers, semitrailers, and pole trailers, including criteria for determining a trailer's age and weight.

25 (9) The department shall adopt rules for generic specialty license plates issued pursuant to 61-3-472
26 through 61-3-481, including:

27 (a) the minimum and maximum number of characters that a generic specialty license plate may
28 display;

1 (b) the general placement of the sponsor's name, identifying phrase, and graphic; and

2 (c) any specifications or limitations on the use or choice of color or detail in the sponsor's graphic

3 design.

4 (10) The department may adopt rules governing dealers pursuant to the provisions of Title 61, chapter
5 4, including:

6 (a) the application and issuance of dealer licenses, including the qualifications of dealers, and the
7 staggering of expiration dates pursuant to 61-4-101;

8 (b) the issuance of dealer, demonstrator, courtesy, and transit plates pursuant to 61-4-102, 61-4-128
9 through 61-4-130, 61-4-301, 61-4-307, and 61-4-308;

10 (c) the application and process for renewing a dealer license pursuant to 61-4-124; and

11 (d) governing the regulation of persons required to be licensed pursuant to Title 61, chapter 4, part 2.

12 (11) The department may adopt rules for local option tax appeals pursuant to 15-15-201.

13 (12) The department may adopt rules to implement any other provision of this title."

14 - END -