

HOUSE BILL NO. 657
INTRODUCED BY J. PARKER

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT ALLOWING A PERSON WITH A DISABILITY TO PERMANENTLY REGISTER A LIGHT VEHICLE; AND AMENDING SECTIONS 61-3-315 AND 61-3-562, MCA."

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

Section 1. Section 61-3-315, MCA, is amended to read:

"61-3-315. Reregistration on anniversary date -- department to make rules. (1) A vehicle that has been registered for any of the periods designated in 61-3-314 must be reregistered for the same period on or before the anniversary date of the initial registration unless that period is changed as provided in subsections (2) and (4). The anniversary date for reregistration is the last day of the month for the designated registration period.

(2) (a) The owner of a motor vehicle subject to the provisions of 61-3-313 through 61-3-316 and subject to the registration fee, as provided in 61-3-560 and 61-3-561, may register the motor vehicle for a period not to exceed 24 months. The registration expires on the last day of the 24th month commencing from the date of the designated registration period under 61-3-314 for which the vehicle is registered.

(b) (i) The owner of a motor vehicle 11 years old or older subject to the provisions of 61-3-313 through 61-3-316 and subject to the registration fee, as provided in 61-3-560 and 61-3-561, may permanently register the motor vehicle as provided in 61-3-562.

(ii) A person with a disability who owns a motor vehicle that has special license plates or a permanent card, as provided in 49-4-304, and that is subject to the provisions of 61-3-313 through 61-3-316, and that is subject to the registration fee, as provided in 61-3-560 and 61-3-561, may permanently register the motor vehicle as provided in 61-3-562.

(iii) The registration remains in effect until ownership of the vehicle is transferred to another person by the registered owner.

(3) The department shall adopt rules for the implementation and administration of 61-3-313 through 61-3-316 and for the identification of the registration on the vehicles.

(4) The department shall provide for simultaneous registration of multiple vehicles that have common ownership. The rules must provide for a change of the registration period to coincide with the date an owner desires to register the vehicles."

Section 2. Section 61-3-562, MCA, is amended to read:

"61-3-562. Permanent registration -- transfer of vehicle ownership -- rules. (1) (a) The owner of a light vehicle 11 years old or older subject to the registration fee, as provided in 61-3-561, or a person with a disability who owns a light vehicle that has special license plates or a permanent card, as provided in 49-4-304, and that is subject to the registration fee, as provided in 61-3-561, may permanently register the vehicle upon payment of a \$50 registration fee, the applicable registration and license fees under 61-3-321, and an amount equal to five times the applicable fees imposed for each of the following:

(i) junk vehicle disposal fees under 15-1-122(3)(a);
(ii) weed control fees under 15-1-122(3)(b);
(iii) the former county motor vehicle computer fees under 61-3-511;
(iv) the local option vehicle tax or flat fee on vehicles under 61-3-537;
(v) if applicable, license plate fees under 61-3-332 and renewal fees for personalized plates under 61-3-406;

(vi) if applicable, the amateur radio operator license plate fee under 61-3-422;

(vii) if applicable, the annual scholarship donation fee under 61-3-465; and

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

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

(2) In addition to the fees described in subsection (1), an owner of a truck with a manufacturer's rated capacity of 1 ton or less that is permanently registered shall pay five times the applicable fees imposed under 61-10-201.

(3) The owner of a vehicle that is permanently registered under this section is not subject to additional fees under 61-3-561 or to other motor vehicle registration fees described in this section for as long as the owner owns the vehicle.

(4) The county treasurer shall:

(a) distribute the \$50 registration fee collected under this section as provided in 61-3-509;

(b) once each month, remit to the department of revenue the amounts collected under this section, other than the local option vehicle tax or flat fee, for the purposes of 61-3-321(3) and 61-10-201. The county treasurer shall retain the local option vehicle tax or flat fee.

(5) (a) The permanent registration of a vehicle allowed by this section may not be transferred to a new owner. If the vehicle is transferred to a new owner, the department shall cancel the vehicle's permanent registration.

(b) Upon transfer of a vehicle registered under this section to a new owner, the new owner shall apply for a certificate of ownership under 61-3-201 and file an application for registration under 61-3-303. (Subsection (1)(b) terminates on occurrence of contingency--sec. 24, Ch. 191, L. 2001.)"

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