

HOUSE BILL NO. 621

INTRODUCED BY V. COURT

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A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT ASSESSING AN ADDITIONAL FEE ON THE REGISTRATION OF MOTOR HOMES, TRAVEL TRAILERS, MOTORCYCLES, AND QUADRICYCLES TO BENEFIT STATE PARKS, FISHING ACCESS SITES, AND CERTAIN STATE-OWNED FACILITIES; AMENDING SECTIONS 23-1-105 AND 61-3-321, MCA; AND PROVIDING A DELAYED EFFECTIVE DATE."

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

Section 1. Section 23-1-105, MCA, is amended to read:

"23-1-105. Fees and charges -- use of motor vehicle registration fee. (1) The department may levy and collect reasonable fees or other charges for the use of privileges and conveniences that may be provided and to grant concessions that it considers advisable, except as provided in subsections (2) and (6). All money derived from the activities of the department, except as provided in subsection (5), must be deposited in the state treasury in a state special revenue fund to the credit of the department.

(2) Overnight camping fees established by the department under subsection (1) must be discounted 50% for a campsite rented by a person who is a resident of Montana, as defined in 87-2-102, and either 62 years of age or older or certified as disabled in accordance with rules adopted by the department.

(3) For a violation of any fee collection rule involving a vehicle, the registered owner of the vehicle at the time of the violation is personally responsible if an adult is not in the vehicle at the time the violation is discovered by an authorized officer. A defense that the vehicle was driven into the fee area by another person is not allowable unless it is shown that at that time, the vehicle was being used without the consent of the registered owner.

(4) Money received from the collection of fees and charges is subject to the deposit requirements of 17-6-105(6) unless the department has submitted and received approval for a modified deposit schedule pursuant to 17-6-105(8).

(5) There is a fund of the enterprise fund type, as defined in 17-2-102(2)(a), for the purpose of managing state park visitor services revenue. The fund is to be used by the department to serve the recreating public by providing for the obtaining of inventory through purchase, production, or donation and for the sale of educational,



1 commemorative, and interpretive merchandise and other related goods and services at department sites and
 2 facilities. The fund consists of money from the sale of educational, commemorative, and interpretive merchandise
 3 and other related goods and services and from donations. Gross revenue from the sale of educational,
 4 commemorative, and interpretive merchandise and other related goods and services must be deposited in the
 5 fund. All interest and earnings on money deposited in the fund must be credited to the fund for use as provided
 6 in this subsection.

7 (6) In recognition of the fact that individuals support state parks through the payment of certain ~~motor~~
 8 light vehicle, motor home, travel trailer, motorcycle, and quadricycle registration fees, persons who pay the fee
 9 provided for in 61-3-321(19)(a) or (19)(b) may not be required to pay a day-use fee for access to state parks.
 10 Other fees for the use of state parks and fishing access sites, such as overnight camping fees, are still chargeable
 11 and may be collected by the department.

12 (7) Any increase in the ~~motor vehicle~~ registration ~~fee fees~~ collected pursuant to 61-3-321(19)(a) or
 13 (19)(b) on or after January 1, 2012, that is dedicated to state parks must be used by the department for
 14 maintenance and operation of state parks."
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16 **Section 2.** Section 61-3-321, MCA, is amended to read:

17 **"61-3-321. Registration fees of vehicles and vessels -- certain vehicles exempt from registration**
 18 **fees -- disposition of fees.** (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section, registration fees must be paid upon
 19 registration or, if applicable, renewal of registration of motor vehicles, snowmobiles, watercraft, trailers,
 20 semitrailers, and pole trailers as provided in subsections (2) through (20).

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

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

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

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

26 (3) Except as provided in subsection (15), the one-time registration fee based on the declared weight
 27 of a trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer is as follows:

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

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

30 (4) Except as provided in subsection (15), the one-time registration fee for motor vehicles owned and

- 1 operated solely as collector's items pursuant to 61-3-411, based on the weight of the vehicle, is as follows:
- 2 (a) 2,850 pounds and over, \$10; and
- 3 (b) under 2,850 pounds, \$5.
- 4 (5) Except as provided in subsection (15), the one-time registration fee for off-highway vehicles other
- 5 than a quadricycle or motorcycle is \$61.25.
- 6 (6) The annual registration fee for heavy trucks, buses, and logging trucks in excess of 1 ton is \$22.75.
- 7 (7) (a) The annual registration fee for a motor home, based on the age of the motor home, is as follows:
- 8 (i) less than 2 years old, \$282.50;
- 9 (ii) 2 years old and less than 5 years old, \$224.25;
- 10 (iii) 5 years old and less than 8 years old, \$132.50; and
- 11 (iv) 8 years old and older, \$97.50.
- 12 (b) The owner of a motor home that is 11 years old or older and that is subject to the registration fee
- 13 under this section may permanently register the motor home upon payment of:
- 14 (i) a one-time registration fee of \$237.50;
- 15 (ii) unless a new set of license plates is being issued, an insurance verification fee of \$5, which must be
- 16 deposited in the account established under 61-6-158;
- 17 (iii) if applicable, five times the renewal fees for personalized license plates under 61-3-406; and
- 18 (iv) if applicable, the donation fee for a generic specialty license plate under 61-3-480 or a collegiate
- 19 license plate under 61-3-465.
- 20 (8) (a) Except as provided in subsection (15), the one-time registration fee for motorcycles and
- 21 quadricycles registered for use on public highways is \$53.25, and the one-time registration fee for motorcycles
- 22 and quadricycles registered for both off-road use and for use on the public highways is \$114.50.
- 23 (b) An additional fee of \$16 must be collected for the registration of each motorcycle or quadricycle as
- 24 a safety fee, which must be deposited in the state motorcycle safety account provided for in 20-25-1002.
- 25 (9) Except as provided in subsection (15), the one-time registration fee for travel trailers, based on the
- 26 length of the travel trailer, is as follows:
- 27 (a) under 16 feet in length, \$72; and
- 28 (b) 16 feet in length or longer, \$152.
- 29 (10) Except as provided in subsection (15), the one-time registration fee for a motorboat, sailboat,
- 30 personal watercraft, or motorized pontoon required to be numbered under 23-2-512 is as follows:

1 (a) for a personal watercraft or a motorboat, sailboat, or motorized pontoon less than 16 feet in length,
2 \$65.50;

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

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

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

8 (b) (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
29 61-6-158, except that \$2 of the fee imposed in subsection (13)(a) must be deposited in the state general fund.

30 (14) The provisions of this part with respect to the payment of registration fees do not apply to and are

1 not binding upon motor vehicles, trailers, semitrailers, snowmobiles, watercraft, or tractors owned or controlled
2 by the United States of America or any state, county, city, or special district, as defined in 18-8-202, or to a vehicle
3 or vessel that meets the description of property exempt from taxation under 15-6-201(1)(a), (1)(d), (1)(e), (1)(g),
4 (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.

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

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

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

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

15 (19) (a) Unless a person exercises the option in ~~either subsection (19)(b) or~~ (19)(c), an additional fee of
16 \$6 must be collected for each light vehicle registered under this part. This fee must be accounted for and
17 transmitted separately from the registration fee. The fee must be deposited in an account in the state special
18 revenue fund to be used for state parks, for fishing access sites, and for the operation of state-owned facilities.
19 Of the \$6 fee, the department of fish, wildlife, and parks shall use \$5.37 for state parks; and 25 cents for fishing
20 access sites, and the Montana heritage preservation and development commission shall use 38 cents for the
21 operation of state-owned facilities at Virginia City and Nevada City.

22 (b) Unless a person exercises the option in subsection (19)(c), an additional fee of \$8 must be collected
23 for each motor home, travel trailer, motorcycle, and quadricycle registered under this part. This fee must be
24 accounted for and transmitted separately from the registration fee. The fee must be deposited in an account in
25 the state special revenue fund to be used for state parks, for fishing access sites, and for the operation of
26 state-owned facilities. Of the \$8 fee, the department of fish, wildlife, and parks shall use \$6.50 for state parks and
27 50 cents for fishing access sites, and the Montana heritage preservation and development commission shall use
28 \$1 for the operation of state-owned facilities at Virginia City and Nevada City.

29 (b) ~~A person who registers a light vehicle may, at the time of annual registration, certify that the person~~
30 ~~does not intend to use the vehicle to visit state parks and fishing access sites and may make a written election~~

1 not to pay the additional \$6 fee provided for in subsection (19)(a). If a written election is made, the fee may not
2 be collected.

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

10 (ii) The written election not to pay the additional fee ~~on a light vehicle~~ pursuant to subsection (19)(c)(i)
11 expires if the light vehicle, motor home, travel trailer, motorcycle, or quadricycle is registered to a different person.

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

15 (21) This section does not apply to a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer that is governed by
16 61-3-721."

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18 NEW SECTION. Section 3. Effective date. [This act] is effective January 1, 2018.

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