

Summary of Transportation Legislation 2019 Legislative Session

The 2019 Legislature acted on several bills involving transportation and taxation related to motor fuels. This summary provides an overview of major legislation, excluding the budget provisions of House Bill 2, in the following areas:

MDT Bills	Traffic Control and Safety
DOJ MVD Bills	Memorial Highways
Licensing, Insurance and Registration	Fuel Taxation
Oversize and Overweight Loads	Miscellaneous

The summary focuses only on legislation approved by the Legislature that has become law.

Requested by Montana Department of Transportation (MDT)

During the 2017-2018 interim, the MDT requested eight bill drafts. Of the eight drafted and introduced, four were passed and approved. The following bills were passed and approved:

✓ [HB 37](#) Revises time-period in which an appraisal is conducted for MDT property listed for sale.

✓ [HB 39](#) Revises laws related to the taxation of fuel used for public contracts and clarifies that fuel used for public contracts must be fuel on which fuel taxes have been paid.

✓ [SB 51](#) Revises highway laws to clarify highway system definitions, terminology, and the process for allocating primary highway system funds for consistency with current state and federal laws and processes.

✓ [SB 76](#) Revises laws related to occupancy of and encroachment on transportation commission-designated highway systems or state highway rights-of-way. Allows for encroachment permits and revises the encroachment removal process.

Requested by Department of Justice Motor Vehicle Division

During the 2017-2018 interim, the DOJ MVD requested one bill draft. [House Bill No. 115](#) proposed several changes to the titling and certification of various vehicles. The bill died on the House floor. However, some aspects of the bill were broken into different bills that were passed and approved, including HB 515 and SB 346.

Licensing, Insurance, and Registration

✓ [HB 62](#) Revises mandatory automobile insurance requirements. Requested by the State Auditor.

✓ [HB 217](#) Revises laws related to the suspension of a driver's license for nonpayment of fines, fees, or restitution.

✓ [HB 450](#) Revises motor vehicle laws and dealer license requirements. Revises vehicle registration fees and modifies record storage requirements.

✓ [HB 515](#) Revises motor vehicle laws. Provides for revocation of a commercial driver's license for human trafficking. Revises the driver rehabilitation program. Revises license requirements and renewals. Allows a knowledge test regarding military commercial motor vehicle experience. Revises restoration requirements. Revises self-insurance requirements. Eliminates certain indemnity bonds.

✓ [HB 624](#) Restricts the requirement that vehicle titles be notarized for private party transactions.

✓ [SB 158](#) Provides an exemption from the requirement for a motorcycle endorsement for an autocycle. Defines "autocycle".

✓ [SB 319](#) Allows a veteran who is eligible for a special license plate fee waiver to waive the fee for any of the special license plates for which the veteran qualifies.

✓ [SB 346](#) Revises motor vehicle laws to include definition of "manufacturer's suggested retail price." Allows for electronic renewal notices. Increases certain fees for motorcycles and quadricycles. Revises commercial driver reciprocity. Revises the definition of "motor vehicle record". Allows for bioptic lens rulemaking authority.

✓ [SB 353](#) Revises laws related to vehicle license plates. Authorizes the use of reproduction license plates on a general transportation collector's item. Requires the reproduction license plate to meet certain requirements. Revises laws related to sponsorship of generic specialty license plates. Requires the DOJ to revoke sponsorship of a generic specialty license plate in certain circumstances.

Oversize and overweight loads

✓ [HB 389](#) Exempts certain implements of husbandry and vehicles transporting hay or straw from height restrictions.

✓ [SB 91](#) Prohibits a local authority from prohibiting or restricting a vehicle loaded with fertilizer in certain circumstances.

✓ [SB 317](#) Creates a wintertime 10% overweight permit and durational 10% overweight permit. Establishes a fee for the permit.

Traffic control and safety

✓ [HB 190](#) Allows a local authority to set a speed limit in a school zone or near a senior citizen center without an engineering and traffic investigation.

✓ [HB 382](#) Provides for a discount for completing highway traffic safety programs. Increases the time a traffic safety program may be effective for insurance discounts.

✓ [HB 393](#) Revises truck speed limit laws and raises the speed limit for trucks on federal-aid interstate highways to 70 mph at all times.

✓ [HB 440](#) Revises speed zone laws. Allows for special speed limit for high crash frequency corridors. Allows for temporary special reduced limits in event of emergency, adverse weather, or other factors impacting safe travel.

✓ [HB 580](#) Requires public notice for certain rumble strip projects.

Memorial Highways

- ✓ [HB 156](#) Establishes the Mason Moore Memorial Highway in Broadwater County. Directs the MDT to install signs.
- ✓ [HB 285](#) Establishes the Pearl Harbor Veterans Memorial Highway in Yellowstone County. Directs the MDT to install signs.
- ✓ [HB 717](#) Establishes the Louis Charles Charlo Memorial Highway in Missoula County. Directs the MDT to install signs.
- ✓ [HB 719](#) Establishes the Jeannette Rankin Memorial Highway in Missoula County. Directs the MDT to install signs.
- ✓ [HB 748](#) Establishes the Minnie Spotted-Wolf Memorial Highway in Pondera County. Directs the MDT to install signs.
- ✓ [HB 756](#) Establishes the Dolly Smith Akers Memorial Highway in Roosevelt County. Directs the MDT to install signs.
- ✓ [SB 175](#) Establish the David Thatcher Memorial Highway in Stillwater County. Directs the MDT to install signs.
- ✓ [SB 196](#) Establishes the Brent Witham Memorial Highway in Missoula County. Directs the MDT to install signs.
- ✓ [SB 260](#) Establishes the Trenton Johnson Memorial Highway in Missoula County. Directs the MDT to install signs.
- ✓ [SB 268](#) Establishes the Montana Medal of Honor Highway in Gallatin County. Directs the MDT to install signs.
- ✓ [SB 365](#) Establishes the Flathead County Veterans Memorial. Directs the MDT to install signs.

Fuel Taxation

- ✓ [HB 661](#) Increases the aviation fuel tax by 1 cent. Revises the distribution of aviation fuel taxes.
- ✓ [SB 137](#) allows any type of retail transaction as evidence for estimating agricultural usage of special fuels.

Miscellaneous

- ✓ [HB 15](#) Revises laws related to nonmotorized vehicle and mobile home disposal.
- ✓ [HB 59](#) Repeals the Rail Service Competition Council. Requested by the Economic Affairs Interim Committee.
- ✓ [HB 257](#) Allows information collected by an unmanned aerial vehicle investigating a motor vehicle crash scene to be admitted into evidence or used to obtain search warrants.

✓ [HB 355](#) Revises laws related to motorized recreation. Establishes the summer motorized recreation trail grant program.

✓ [HB 456](#) Allows public utilities to participate in the electric vehicle marketplace. Grants utilities the right to sell electricity to private entities for electric vehicle charging services.

✓ [HB 617](#) Revises automobile franchise laws. Provides circumstances in which a manufacturer is permitted to add an additional franchisee in a community. Requiring disclosure of the additional franchisee.

✓ [SB 226](#) Establishes a Transportation Interim Committee. Requested by the Senate Highways and Transportation Standing Committee.

✓ [SB 248](#) Revises laws regarding abandoned vehicles and authorizes law enforcement to take custody of vehicles abandoned for certain periods of time.

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