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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-FOURTH SESSION

H. F. No. 3864

03/02/2026 Authored by Luger-Nikolai The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Transportation Finance and Policy

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to motor vehicles; eliminating requirements for validation sticker display
1.3 on license plates; making conforming and technical changes; amending Minnesota
1.4 Statutes 2024, sections 168.012, subdivision 1c; 168.0135, subdivision 1; 168.017,
1.5 subdivision 5; 168.12, subdivisions 1, 2f, 5; 168.123, subdivision 1; 168.124,
1.6 subdivision 3; 168.125, subdivision 1b; 168.127, subdivisions 1, 5; 168.15,
1.7 subdivision 1; 168.16; 168.187, subdivision 12; 168.27, subdivision 28; 168.29;
1.8 168.31, subdivision 4; 168.381, subdivision 4; 168B.035, subdivision 3; 169.79,
1.9 subdivisions 1, 7; Minnesota Statutes 2025 Supplement, section 168.012,
1.10 subdivision 13; repealing Minnesota Statutes 2024, sections 168.37, subdivision
1.11 3; 169.79, subdivision 8.

1.12 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.13 ARTICLE 1
1.14 LICENSE PLATE STICKERS

1.15 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 168.12, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

1.16 Subdivision 1. Plates; design, visibility, periods of issuance. (a) The commissioner,
1.17 upon approval and payment, must issue to the applicant the plates required by this chapter,
1.18 bearing the state name and an assigned vehicle registration number. The number assigned
1.19 by the commissioner may be a combination of a letter or sign with figures. The color of the
1.20 plates and the color of the abbreviation of the state name and the number assigned must be
1.21 in marked contrast. The plates must be lettered, spaced, or distinguished to suitably indicate
1.22 the registration of the vehicle according to the rules of the commissioner.

1.23 (b) When a vehicle is registered on the basis of total gross weight, the plates issued must
1.24 clearly indicate by letters or other suitable insignia the maximum gross weight for which
1.25 the tax has been paid.

2.1 (c) Plates issued to a noncommercial vehicle must bear the inscription "noncommercial"
2.2 unless the vehicle is displaying a special plate authorized and issued under this chapter.

2.3 (d) A one-ton pickup truck that is used for commercial purposes and is subject to section
2.4 168.185, is eligible to display special plates as authorized and issued under this chapter.

2.5 (e) The plates must be so treated as to be at least 100 times brighter than the conventional
2.6 painted ~~number~~ plates. When properly mounted on an unlighted vehicle, the plates, when
2.7 viewed from a vehicle equipped with standard headlights, must be visible for a distance of
2.8 not less than 1,500 feet and readable for a distance of not less than 110 feet.

2.9 (f) The commissioner must issue plates for the following periods:

2.10 (1) new plates issued pursuant to section 168.012, subdivision 1, must be issued to a
2.11 vehicle for as long as the vehicle is owned by the exempt agency and the plate is not
2.12 transferable from one vehicle to another but the plate may be transferred with the vehicle
2.13 from one tax-exempt agency to another;

2.14 (2) plates issued for passenger automobiles must be issued for a seven-year period, and
2.15 all plates issued under this ~~paragraph~~ clause must be replaced if they are seven years old or
2.16 older at the time of registration renewal or will become so during the registration period;

2.17 (3) plates issued under sections 168.053 and 168.27, subdivisions 16 and 17, must be
2.18 for a seven-year period;

2.19 (4) plates issued under subdivisions 2c and 2d and sections 168.123, 168.1235, and
2.20 168.1255 must be issued for the life of the veteran under section 169.79; and

2.21 (5) plates for any vehicle not specified in clauses (1) to (3) must be issued for the life
2.22 of the vehicle.

2.23 (g) ~~In a year in which plates are not issued, the commissioner must issue for each~~
2.24 ~~registration a sticker to designate the year of registration. This sticker must show the year~~
2.25 ~~or years for which the sticker is issued, and is valid only for that period. The plates and~~
2.26 ~~stickers~~ issued for a vehicle may not be transferred to another vehicle during the applicable
2.27 registration period for which the sticker is issued, except when issued for a vehicle registered
2.28 under section 168.187.

2.29 (h) Despite any other provision of this subdivision, plates issued to a vehicle used for
2.30 behind-the-wheel instruction in a driver education course in a public school may be
2.31 transferred to another vehicle used for the same purpose without payment of any additional
2.32 fee. The public school must notify the commissioner of each transfer of plates under this
2.33 paragraph. The commissioner may prescribe a format for notification.

3.1 (i) In lieu of plates required under this section, the commissioner must issue a registration
3.2 number identical to the federally issued tail number assigned to a roadable aircraft.

3.3 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective October 1, 2026.

3.4 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 169.79, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

3.5 Subdivision 1. **Registration and plates required.** ~~No person shall~~ (a) A person must
3.6 not operate, drive, or park a motor vehicle on any highway unless the vehicle is registered
3.7 in accordance with the laws of this state and has the number displays the license plates or
3.8 permit issued by the commissioner of public safety confirming that valid registration or
3.9 operating authority has been obtained, except as provided in sections: (1) this section; (2)
3.10 section 168.10 and or 168.12, subdivision 2f, as assigned to it by the commissioner of public
3.11 safety, conspicuously displayed thereon in a manner that the view of any plate or permit is
3.12 not obstructed; or (3) section 168.09, subdivision 7, 168.091, or 168.092.

3.13 (b) A plate issued under section 168.27 or a permit issued under chapter 168 may be
3.14 displayed on a vehicle ~~in conjunction with that has~~ expired registration, whether or not ~~it~~
3.15 the vehicle displays the license plate to which issued in conjunction with the last registration
3.16 was issued.

3.17 (c) Unless specifically established otherwise, a validation sticker that indicates the date
3.18 of expiration of vehicle registration is not required to be affixed or displayed on a license
3.19 plate.

3.20 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective October 1, 2026.

3.21 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 169.79, subdivision 7, is amended to read:

3.22 Subd. 7. **Plate fastened and visible.** ~~All plates~~ (a) A license plate must be:

3.23 (1) securely fastened so as to prevent them from swinging;

3.24 (2) displayed horizontally, or as provided in subdivision 3, with the identifying numbers
3.25 and letters facing outward from the vehicle, and;

3.26 (3) mounted in the upright position; and

3.27 (4) conspicuously displayed so that the view of the plate is not obstructed.

3.28 (b) ~~The person driving the operator of a motor vehicle shall~~ must keep the a plate legible
3.29 and unobstructed and free from grease, dust, or other blurring material so that the lettering
3.30 is plainly visible at all times. It is unlawful to cover any assigned letters and numbers or the

4.1 name of the state of origin of a license plate with any material whatever, including any clear
4.2 or colorless material that affects the plate's visibility or reflectivity.

4.3 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective October 1, 2026.

4.4 Sec. 4. **REPEALER.**

4.5 Minnesota Statutes 2024, sections 168.37, subdivision 3; and 169.79, subdivision 8, are
4.6 repealed.

4.7 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective October 1, 2026.

4.8 **ARTICLE 2**

4.9 **CONFORMING CHANGES**

4.10 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 168.012, subdivision 1c, is amended to read:

4.11 Subd. 1c. **Payment of administrative, plate, and filing fee.** The annual administrative
4.12 fee for a tax-exempt vehicle under this section is \$5. The license plate fee for a tax-exempt
4.13 vehicle, except a trailer, is \$10 for two plates per vehicle, payable only on the first tax-exempt
4.14 registration of the vehicle. The registration period for a tax-exempt vehicle is biennial. The
4.15 administrative fee is due on March 1 biennially and payable the preceding January 1, ~~with~~
4.16 ~~validating stickers issued at time of payment.~~ Replacement plates are subject to the fees in
4.17 section 168.12.

4.18 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2025 Supplement, section 168.012, subdivision 13, is amended
4.19 to read:

4.20 Subd. 13. **Vehicles registered by certain veterans.** (a) A passenger automobile, one-ton
4.21 pickup truck, motorcycle, or recreational vehicle registered by a veteran with a total
4.22 service-connected disability, as defined in section 171.01, subdivision 51, is not subject to:

4.23 (1) registration taxes under this chapter;

4.24 (2) administrative fees imposed under subdivision 1c;

4.25 (3) filing fees and surcharges imposed under section 168.33, subdivision 7; or

4.26 (4) ~~plate and validation sticker~~ plate and validation sticker fees imposed under this chapter, including but not limited
4.27 to:

4.28 (i) fees under section 168.12, subdivision 5;

4.29 (ii) fees identified in any section authorizing special plates; and

5.1 (iii) transfer fees.

5.2 (b) The exemptions under this subdivision apply to a motor vehicle that is jointly
5.3 registered by a qualifying veteran and a spouse or domestic partner.

5.4 (c) The fees identified under paragraph (a), clause (4), do not include:

5.5 (1) a fee for personalized plates under section 168.12, subdivision 2a; or

5.6 (2) a required contribution or donation for a special plate, including but not limited to
5.7 a contribution under sections 168.1255, subdivision 1, clause (6); 168.1258, subdivision 1,
5.8 clause (4); 168.1259, subdivision 2, paragraph (a), clause (5); 168.1287, subdivision 1,
5.9 clause (5); 168.129, subdivision 1, clause (5); 168.1295, subdivision 1, paragraph (a), clause
5.10 (5); 168.1296, subdivision 1, paragraph (a), clause (5); and 168.1299, subdivision 1, clause
5.11 (3).

5.12 (d) A qualifying veteran may register no more than two motor vehicles at the same time
5.13 with the exemptions under this subdivision. Nothing in this paragraph prevents registration
5.14 of additional motor vehicles as otherwise provided in this chapter.

5.15 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 168.0135, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

5.16 Subdivision 1. **Authorization.** (a) The commissioner, in consultation with deputy
5.17 registrars, must establish a process to implement, locate, and install self-service kiosks that
5.18 may be used for passenger vehicle and motorcycle registration renewals. The commissioner
5.19 must establish reasonable performance, security, technical, and financial standards to approve
5.20 a vendor. Self-service kiosks authorized by this section must:

5.21 (1) allow a customer to renew a passenger vehicle or motorcycle registration pursuant
5.22 to section 168.013 without assistance of a deputy registrar;

5.23 (2) collect the appropriate annual contribution for a special license plate;

5.24 (3) process requests for duplicate license plates, except that the self-service kiosk must
5.25 not process any request for a special plate that requires documentation to prove eligibility
5.26 to receive that type of plate; and

5.27 ~~(4) dispense license plate registration renewal stickers to the applicant at the time of the~~
5.28 ~~application; and~~

5.29 ~~(5)~~ (4) display the contact phone number and email address of the deputy registrar's
5.30 office that is responsible for the self-service kiosk.

6.1 (b) This section only applies to deputy registrars appointed pursuant to section 168.33,
6.2 subdivision 2.

6.3 Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 168.017, subdivision 5, is amended to read:

6.4 Subd. 5. **Registration period extension for leased vehicle.** (a) Notwithstanding
6.5 subdivisions 3 and 4, a person leasing for at least one year a vehicle registered under this
6.6 section may obtain an extension of the motor vehicle's registration period for the unexpired
6.7 portion of the lease period, for a period not to exceed 11 months beyond the expiration of
6.8 the registration period.

6.9 (b) In order to obtain an extension under this subdivision a lessee must:

6.10 (1) apply to the registrar on a form the registrar prescribes;

6.11 (2) submit to the registrar a copy of the lease;

6.12 (3) pay an administrative fee of \$5; and

6.13 (4) pay a tax of 1/12 of the tax for the registration period being extended for each month
6.14 of the extension.

6.15 (c) On an applicant's compliance with paragraph (b) ~~the registrar shall issue the applicant~~
6.16 ~~a license plate tab or sticker designating the new month of expiration of the registration,~~
6.17 the extended registration expires on the tenth day of the month following the ~~month~~
6.18 ~~designated on the tab or sticker~~ month of expiration.

6.19 (d) All fees collected under paragraph (b), clause (3), must be deposited in the driver
6.20 and vehicle services operating account under section 299A.705, subdivision 1. Taxes
6.21 collected under paragraph (b), clause (4), must be deposited in the highway user tax
6.22 distribution fund.

6.23 Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 168.12, subdivision 2f, is amended to read:

6.24 Subd. 2f. **Original license plates.** (a) On application of the owner and in lieu of issuing
6.25 plates under subdivision 1 to a motor vehicle registered and taxed as a passenger automobile,
6.26 the commissioner may assign to the motor vehicle original Minnesota registration license
6.27 plates issued in the same year as the model year of the motor vehicle, if (1) the original
6.28 plates are at least 20 years old, (2) the owner of the motor vehicle has the original plates in
6.29 possession at the time of the application, and (3) the owner provides the plate number to
6.30 the commissioner.

7.1 (b) Plates ~~displayed~~ under this subdivision, ~~including stickers applied to the plates~~, must
7.2 be clearly legible and must be displayed on the motor vehicle.

7.3 (c) The commissioner ~~shall~~ must not assign the registration number on the original plates
7.4 to the motor vehicle if the commissioner determines that the number on the original plate
7.5 is identical to the number on any plate in the current or reserved numbering system used
7.6 by the commissioner.

7.7 (d) ~~Despite~~ Notwithstanding subdivision 1, an original plate whose number has been
7.8 assigned under this subdivision may be displayed for as long as the plates, ~~including tabs~~
7.9 ~~and stickers on the plates~~, are clearly legible and the number is not subsequently used by
7.10 the commissioner as a plate number in a registration numbering system.

7.11 (e) ~~Despite subdivision 1, original plates assigned under this subdivision need not bear~~
7.12 ~~a tab or sticker to indicate the month or year of registration if the motor vehicle carries the~~
7.13 ~~registration certificate issued under section 168.11 at all times when the motor vehicle is~~
7.14 ~~operated on the public highways.~~

7.15 (f) (e) The commissioner may charge a fee for receiving an application and assigning
7.16 original plate numbers.

7.17 Sec. 6. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 168.12, subdivision 5, is amended to read:

7.18 Subd. 5. **Additional fee.** (a) In addition to any fee otherwise authorized or any tax
7.19 otherwise imposed upon any vehicle, the payment of which is required as a condition to the
7.20 issuance of any plate or plates, the commissioner ~~shall~~ must impose the fee specified in
7.21 paragraph (b) ~~that is calculated to cover the cost of manufacturing and issuing the plate or~~
7.22 ~~plates~~, except for plates issued to disabled veterans as defined in section 168.031 and plates
7.23 issued pursuant to section 168.124, 168.125, or 168.27, subdivisions 16 and 17, for passenger
7.24 automobiles. The commissioner ~~shall~~ must issue graphic design plates only for vehicles
7.25 registered pursuant to section 168.017 and recreational vehicles registered pursuant to section
7.26 168.013, subdivision 1g.

7.27 (b) Unless otherwise specified or exempted by statute, the following plate and ~~validation~~
7.28 sticker fees apply for the original, duplicate, or replacement issuance of a plate in a plate
7.29 year:

7.30	License Plate <u>Plates</u>	Single	Double
7.31	Regular and Disability	\$ 13.50	\$ 15.50
7.32	Special	\$ 13.50	\$ 15.50
7.33	Personalized (Replacement)	\$ 13.50	\$ 15.50

8.1	Collector Category	\$	13.50	\$	15.50
8.2	Emergency Vehicle Display	\$	3.00	\$	6.00
8.3	Utility Trailer Self-Adhesive	\$	2.50		
8.4	Vertical Motorcycle Plate	\$	100.00		NA
8.5	Replacement Dealer Plates	\$	5.25		
8.6	Replacement Tax Exempt Plates	\$	5.25		
8.7	Stickers				
8.8	Duplicate year	\$	1.50	\$	1.50
8.9	International Fuel Tax Agreement	\$	2.50		

8.10 (c) For vehicles that require two of the categories in paragraph (b), the registrar ~~shall~~
8.11 must only charge the higher of the two fees and not a combined total.

8.12 Sec. 7. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 168.123, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

8.13 Subdivision 1. **General requirements; fees.** (a) On payment of a fee in the amount
8.14 specified for special plates under section 168.12, subdivision 5, for each set of two plates,
8.15 or for a single plate in the case of a motorcycle plate, payment of the registration tax required
8.16 by law, and compliance with other applicable laws relating to vehicle registration and
8.17 licensing, as applicable, the commissioner ~~shall~~ must issue:

8.18 (1) special veteran's plates to an applicant who served in the active military service in a
8.19 branch of the armed forces of the United States or of a nation or society allied with the
8.20 United States in conducting a foreign war, was discharged under honorable conditions, and
8.21 is a registered owner of a passenger automobile, recreational motor vehicle, or one-ton
8.22 pickup truck, but which is not a commercial motor vehicle as defined in section 169.011,
8.23 subdivision 16; or

8.24 (2) a veteran's special motorcycle plate as described in subdivision 2, paragraph (a), (e),
8.25 (f), (h), (i), (j), or (m), or another special plate designed by the commissioner to an applicant
8.26 who is a registered owner of a motorcycle and meets the criteria listed in this paragraph and
8.27 in subdivision 2, paragraph (a), (e), (f), (h), (i), (j), or (m). Plates issued under this clause
8.28 must be the same size as regular motorcycle plates. Special motorcycle license plates issued
8.29 under this clause are not subject to section 168.1293.

8.30 (b) The additional fee ~~is payable~~ for each set of veteran's plates; is payable ~~only~~ when
8.31 the plates are issued, ~~and is not payable in a year in which stickers are issued instead of~~
8.32 ~~plates.~~

8.33 (c) The veteran must have a certified copy of the veteran's discharge papers, indicating
8.34 character of discharge, at the time of application. If an applicant served in the active military

9.1 service in a branch of the armed forces of a nation or society allied with the United States
 9.2 in conducting a foreign war and is unable to obtain a record of that service and discharge
 9.3 status, the commissioner of veterans affairs may certify the applicant as qualified for the
 9.4 veterans' plates provided under this section.

9.5 Sec. 8. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 168.124, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

9.6 Subd. 3. **No fee.** The commissioner ~~shall~~ must issue ~~a set of~~ Medal of Honor plates to
 9.7 qualified applicants free of charge and the plates must be replaced without charge if they
 9.8 become damaged. ~~In addition, no fee may be charged for a subsequent year when stickers~~
 9.9 ~~are issued for a motor vehicle listed in subdivision 1 on which the Medal of Honor plates~~
 9.10 ~~are placed.~~ The motor vehicle must be for personal use, not commercial purposes.

9.11 Sec. 9. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 168.125, subdivision 1b, is amended to read:

9.12 Subd. 1b. **No fee.** The commissioner ~~shall~~ must issue ~~a set of~~ EX-POW plates, or a single
 9.13 plate for a motorcycle, to qualified applicants, free of charge, and ~~shall~~ must replace them
 9.14 without charge if they become damaged. ~~In addition, no fee may be charged for a subsequent~~
 9.15 ~~year when stickers are issued for that motor vehicle on which the EX-POW plates are placed.~~

9.16 Sec. 10. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 168.127, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

9.17 Subdivision 1. **Unique registration category.** (a) A unique registration category is
 9.18 established for vehicles and trailers of a fleet. Vehicles registered in the fleet must be issued
 9.19 a distinctive license plate. The fleet license plate must bear the inscription "FLEET REG"
 9.20 and otherwise the design and size of the ~~fleet license~~ plate must be determined by the
 9.21 commissioner.

9.22 (b) A deputy registrar may issue replacement license plates for qualified vehicles in a
 9.23 registered fleet pursuant to section 168.29.

9.24 Sec. 11. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 168.127, subdivision 5, is amended to read:

9.25 Subd. 5. **Renewal of fleet registration.** On the renewal of a fleet registration, the
 9.26 registrant must pay full licensing fees for every vehicle registered in the preceding year
 9.27 unless the vehicle has been properly deleted from the fleet. In order to delete a vehicle from
 9.28 a fleet, the fleet registrant must surrender to the commissioner the registration card and
 9.29 license plates. The commissioner may authorize alternative methods of deleting vehicles
 9.30 from a fleet, including destruction of the license plates and registration cards. If the card or
 9.31 license plates are lost or stolen, the fleet registrant must submit a sworn statement stating

10.1 the circumstances for the inability to surrender the card, ~~stickers~~, and license plates. A fleet
 10.2 registrant who fails to renew the licenses issued under this section or fails to report the
 10.3 removal of vehicles from the fleet within 30 days of the vehicles' removal must pay a penalty
 10.4 of 20 percent of the total tax due on the fleet. The penalty must be paid within 30 days after
 10.5 it is assessed.

10.6 Sec. 12. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 168.15, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

10.7 Subdivision 1. **Transfer of ownership.** (a) Upon the transfer of ownership, destruction,
 10.8 theft, dismantling, or permanent removal by the owner from this state of any vehicle
 10.9 registered in accordance with this chapter, the right of the owner of the vehicle to use the
 10.10 registration certificate and plates assigned to the vehicle expires.

10.11 (b) When the ownership of a vehicle is transferred to another person required to register
 10.12 the vehicle in this state, the transferor ~~shall~~ must assign the registration tax paid to the credit
 10.13 of the transferee unless the ~~registration stickers~~ license plates are surrendered to the
 10.14 commissioner before the first day of the new registration period.

10.15 (c) When seeking to become the owner by gift, trade, or purchase of any vehicle for
 10.16 which a registration certificate has been issued under this chapter, a person ~~shall~~ must join
 10.17 with the registered owner in transmitting with the application for transfer of ownership, the
 10.18 registration certificate, with the assignment and notice of sale duly executed.

10.19 (d) In case of loss of the title or certificate of registration of a vehicle not subject to
 10.20 section 325E.15, the person ~~shall~~ must make application to the commissioner with proof of
 10.21 loss of the title as specified in section 168A.09 and assign a notice of sale of the vehicle on
 10.22 the application for title as specified in section 168A.04.

10.23 (e) Upon the transfer of any vehicle by a manufacturer or dealer, for use within the state,
 10.24 whether by sale, lease, or otherwise, the transferor ~~shall~~ must, within ten days after the
 10.25 transfer, file with the commissioner (1) a notice containing the date of transfer, a description
 10.26 of the vehicle, and the transferee's name and residence address in the state or if not a natural
 10.27 person then the transferee's business and mailing address, and (2) the transferee's application
 10.28 for registration.

10.29 Sec. 13. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 168.16, is amended to read:

10.30 **168.16 REGISTRATION TAX REFUND; APPROPRIATION.**

10.31 (a) After the registration tax upon any vehicle has been paid for any registration period,
 10.32 refund must be made for errors made in computing the registration tax or fees and for the

11.1 error on the part of an owner who may in error have registered a vehicle that was not before,
 11.2 nor at the time of registration, nor at any time thereafter during the preceding registration
 11.3 period, subject to registration tax in this state as provided by section 168.012.

11.4 (b) Unless otherwise provided in this chapter, a claim for a refund of an overpayment
 11.5 of registration tax must be filed within 3-1/2 years from the date of payment.

11.6 (c) The former registered owner of a transferred vehicle, by an assignment in writing
 11.7 endorsed upon the registration certificate and delivered to the commissioner within the time
 11.8 provided in this subdivision, ~~shall~~ must assign, except for vehicles registered under section
 11.9 168.187, to the new owner the right to have the tax paid by the former registered owner
 11.10 accredited to the new owner who duly registers the vehicle unless the ~~registration stickers~~
 11.11 license plates are surrendered to the commissioner before the first day of the new registration
 11.12 period.

11.13 (d) Any owner is entitled to a refund of the unused portion of the registration tax paid
 11.14 on the owner's vehicle upon filing a claim, verified by the commissioner, if the vehicle is:

11.15 (1) declared by an insurance company to be permanently destroyed due to accident, fire,
 11.16 or an Act of God as defined in section 115B.02; or

11.17 (2) sold to the federal government, the state, or a political subdivision of the state.

11.18 (e) The refund must be equal to the sum of the remaining registration tax attributable
 11.19 for the registration period after the month in which the plates and certificate of registration
 11.20 or title were returned to the commissioner.

11.21 (f) There is ~~hereby~~ appropriated to the persons entitled to a refund, from the fund or
 11.22 account in the state treasury to which the money was credited, an amount sufficient to make
 11.23 the refund and payment.

11.24 Sec. 14. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 168.187, subdivision 12, is amended to read:

11.25 Subd. 12. **Registration of proratable vehicles.** (a) The commissioner of public safety
 11.26 ~~shall~~ must register proratable vehicles of a fleet upon application and payment of registration
 11.27 fees as provided in subdivision 11. Payment of an additional fee for each vehicle so registered
 11.28 may be required by the commissioner in an amount not to exceed \$5 per motor powered
 11.29 vehicle, for issuance of a plate, ~~sticker~~, or other suitable identification for each vehicle. A
 11.30 registration card ~~shall~~ must be issued for each vehicle registered, ~~which shall~~ that
 11.31 appropriately ~~identify~~ identifies the vehicle for which it is issued. ~~Such~~ The registration
 11.32 card ~~shall~~ must be carried in or upon the vehicle for which it has been issued, at all times,

12.1 except that the registration cards for all vehicles in a combination of vehicles may be carried
12.2 in or upon the vehicle supplying the motive power.

12.3 (b) Fleet vehicles registered as provided in paragraph (a) ~~shall be deemed~~ are fully
12.4 registered in this state for any type of movement or operation, except that when a state grant
12.5 of authority is required for any movement or operation, ~~no such vehicle shall~~ a vehicle must
12.6 not be operated in this state unless (1) the owner or operator ~~thereof~~ has been granted
12.7 authority or rights ~~therefore~~ by the state to do so, and ~~unless said~~ (2) the vehicle is being
12.8 operated in conformity with ~~such~~ the authority or rights.

12.9 (c) No registration under this section ~~shall excuse~~ excuses the owner or operator of any
12.10 vehicle from compliance with the laws of this state, except those requiring registration and
12.11 licensing.

12.12 Sec. 15. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 168.27, subdivision 28, is amended to read:

12.13 Subd. 28. **Distribution of plates and stickers.** (a) The commissioner may distribute
12.14 ~~registration license plates and stickers~~ registration license plates and stickers to be held and issued by new and used motor vehicle
12.15 dealers.

12.16 (b) A dealer may issue ~~registration license plates and stickers~~ registration license
12.17 plates and stickers only in conjunction with the sale of a vehicle by the dealer. A dealer permitted to hold and issue ~~registration license~~
12.18 plates and stickers must be equipped with electronic transmission technology and trained
12.19 in its use. Before receiving ~~registration license plates and stickers~~ registration license
12.20 plates and stickers under this subdivision, a dealer must adopt and implement security and record-keeping requirements satisfactory to
12.21 the commissioner.

12.22 (c) The commissioner may revoke the authority granted to a dealer under this subdivision
12.23 for any violation of law or rule governing the issuance of ~~registration license plates and~~
12.24 ~~stickers~~, any violation of the dealer's security and record-keeping plan, or any other action
12.25 that in the commissioner's opinion adversely affects the registration system. The dealer is
12.26 financially responsible for the cost and tax value of any unaccounted inventory.

12.27 Sec. 16. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 168.29, is amended to read:

12.28 **168.29 REPLACEMENT PLATES.**

12.29 (a) In the event of the defacement, loss, or destruction of any ~~number license plates or~~
12.30 ~~validation stickers~~, the commissioner, must issue a new set of plates upon receiving and
12.31 filing a sworn statement of the vehicle owner, setting forth the circumstances of the
12.32 defacement, loss, destruction, or theft of the number plates or validation stickers, together

13.1 with any defaced plates ~~or stickers~~ and the payment of a fee calculated to cover the cost of
 13.2 replacement, ~~must issue a new set of plates or stickers.~~

13.3 (b) A licensed motor vehicle dealer may only apply for replacement plates upon
 13.4 application for a certificate of title in the name of a new owner or the dealer. The
 13.5 commissioner must issue a new set of plates ~~or validation stickers~~ upon application for title
 13.6 and registration after removal of plates pursuant to section 168A.11, subdivision 2.

13.7 (c) Plates issued under this section are subject to section 168.12.

13.8 (d) The commissioner must note on the commissioner's records the issue of new ~~number~~
 13.9 license plates and must attempt to cancel and call in the original plates so as to insure against
 13.10 their use on another motor vehicle.

13.11 (e) Duplicate registration certificates plainly marked as duplicates may be issued in like
 13.12 cases upon the payment of a \$1 fee. Fees collected under this section must be deposited in
 13.13 the driver and vehicle services operating account under section 299A.705, subdivision 1.

13.14 Sec. 17. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 168.31, subdivision 4, is amended to read:

13.15 Subd. 4. **Installments; registration generally.** (a) If the tax for a vehicle assessed under
 13.16 section 168.013, subdivision 1c, 1d, 1e, or 1g, amounts to more than \$400, the owner may
 13.17 pay the tax by installments.

13.18 (b) The owner ~~shall~~ must tender with the application for registration one-third of the
 13.19 annual tax due or \$400, whichever is greater, plus any penalties or arrears, plus a fee of
 13.20 \$10. Instead of this fee, the applicant may furnish a bond, bank letter of credit, or certificate
 13.21 of deposit approved by the registrar of motor vehicles, for the total of the tax still due. The
 13.22 amount of the bond, letter of credit, or certificate of deposit may include any penalties
 13.23 assessed. The bond, letter of credit, or certificate of deposit must be for the benefit of the
 13.24 state for monetary loss caused by failure of the vehicle owner to pay delinquent license fees
 13.25 and penalties.

13.26 (c) The remainder of the tax due must be paid in two equal installments. The due date
 13.27 of the first installment is July 1, and the second installment is due November 1.

13.28 ~~(d) When the applicant elects to pay the administrative fee, the registrar shall issue to~~
 13.29 ~~the applicant validation stickers indicating the expiration date of a registration. When the~~
 13.30 ~~applicant elects to furnish a bond, bank letter, or letter of deposit, the registrar shall issue~~
 13.31 ~~regular validation stickers for the registration year.~~

14.1 ~~(e)~~ (d) If an owner of a vehicle fails to pay an installment on or before its due date, the
 14.2 vehicle must not be used on the public streets or highways in this state until the installment
 14.3 or installments of the tax remaining due on the vehicle have been paid in full for the licensed
 14.4 year together with a penalty at the rate of \$1 per day for the remainder of the month in which
 14.5 the balance of the tax becomes due and \$4 a month for each succeeding month or fraction
 14.6 of a month during which the balance of the tax remains unpaid. Upon the payment of the
 14.7 balance of the tax and the penalties, the registrar ~~shall~~ must issue a registration certificate
 14.8 to the owner of the vehicle in the manner provided by law. The registrar ~~shall~~ must deny
 14.9 installment payment privileges provided in this subdivision in the subsequent year to any
 14.10 owner on any or all vehicles of the owner who during the current year fails to pay any
 14.11 installment due within one month after the due date.

14.12 Sec. 18. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 168.381, subdivision 4, is amended to read:

14.13 Subd. 4. **Appropriations.** (a) Money appropriated to the Department of Public Safety
 14.14 to procure the plates for any fiscal year or years is available for allotment, encumbrance,
 14.15 and expenditure from and after the date of the enactment of the appropriation. Materials
 14.16 and equipment used in the manufacture of plates are subject only to the approval of the
 14.17 commissioner.

14.18 (b) This section contemplates that money to be appropriated to the Department of Public
 14.19 Safety to carry out the terms and provisions of this section will be appropriated by the
 14.20 legislature from the highway user tax distribution fund.

14.21 (c) A sum sufficient is appropriated annually from the driver and vehicle services
 14.22 operating account under section 299A.705 to the commissioner to pay the costs of purchasing,
 14.23 delivering, and mailing plates, ~~registration stickers,~~ and registration notices.

14.24 Sec. 19. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 168B.035, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

14.25 Subd. 3. **Towing prohibited.** (a) A towing authority may not tow a motor vehicle
 14.26 because:

14.27 (1) the vehicle ~~displays registration validation stickers that have~~ has been expired for
 14.28 less than 90 days;

14.29 (2) the vehicle is at a parking meter on which the time has expired; or

14.30 (3) the vehicle is identified in conjunction with a citation to the vehicle owner or lessee
 14.31 for (i) a violation under section 169.06, subdivision 10, or (ii) a violation under section
 14.32 169.14, subdivision 13.

- 15.1 (b) A towing authority may tow a motor vehicle, notwithstanding paragraph (a), if:
- 15.2 (1) the vehicle is parked in violation of snow emergency regulations;
- 15.3 (2) the vehicle is parked in a rush-hour restricted parking area;
- 15.4 (3) the vehicle is blocking a driveway, alley, or fire hydrant;
- 15.5 (4) the vehicle is parked in a bus lane, or at a bus stop, during hours when parking is
- 15.6 prohibited;
- 15.7 (5) the vehicle is parked within 30 feet of a stop sign and visually blocking the stop sign;
- 15.8 (6) the vehicle is parked in a disability transfer zone or disability parking space without
- 15.9 a disability parking certificate or disability license plates;
- 15.10 (7) the vehicle is parked in an area that has been posted for temporary restricted parking
- 15.11 (i) at least 12 hours in advance in a home rule charter or statutory city having a population
- 15.12 under 50,000, or (ii) at least 24 hours in advance in another political subdivision;
- 15.13 (8) the vehicle is parked within the right-of-way of a controlled-access highway or within
- 15.14 the traveled portion of a public street when travel is allowed there;
- 15.15 (9) the vehicle is unlawfully parked in a zone that is restricted by posted signs to use by
- 15.16 fire, police, public safety, or emergency vehicles;
- 15.17 (10) the vehicle is unlawfully parked on property at the Minneapolis-St. Paul International
- 15.18 Airport owned by the Metropolitan Airports Commission;
- 15.19 (11) a law enforcement official has probable cause to believe that the vehicle is stolen,
- 15.20 or that the vehicle constitutes or contains evidence of a crime and impoundment is reasonably
- 15.21 necessary to obtain or preserve the evidence;
- 15.22 (12) the driver, operator, or person in physical control of the vehicle is taken into custody
- 15.23 and the vehicle is impounded for safekeeping;
- 15.24 (13) a law enforcement official has probable cause to believe that the owner, operator,
- 15.25 or person in physical control of the vehicle has failed to respond to five or more citations
- 15.26 for parking or traffic offenses;
- 15.27 (14) the vehicle is unlawfully parked in a zone that is restricted by posted signs to use
- 15.28 by taxicabs;
- 15.29 (15) the vehicle is unlawfully parked and prevents egress by a lawfully parked vehicle;
- 15.30 (16) the vehicle is parked, on a school day during prohibited hours, in a school zone on
- 15.31 a public street where official signs prohibit parking; or

16.1 (17) the vehicle is a junk, abandoned, or unauthorized vehicle, as defined in section
16.2 168B.011, and subject to immediate removal under this chapter.

16.3 (c) A violation under section 169.06, subdivision 10, or 169.14, subdivision 13, is not
16.4 a traffic offense under paragraph (b), clause (13).

16.5 Sec. 20. **EFFECTIVE DATE.**

16.6 This article is effective October 1, 2026.

APPENDIX
Article locations for 26-06669

ARTICLE 1 LICENSE PLATE STICKERS..... Page.Ln 1.13
ARTICLE 2 CONFORMING CHANGES..... Page.Ln 4.8

168.37 PLATE TABS OR STICKERS; MONTHLY REGISTRATION SYSTEM.

Subd. 3. **Design.** The registrar may rearrange the words and figures on plates issued for vehicles under the monthly series system of registration to provide space on the plates for tabs or stickers which the registrar shall issue to indicate the period of registration.

169.79 VEHICLE REGISTRATION; DISPLAYING LICENSE PLATES.

Subd. 8. **Plate registration stickers.** As viewed facing the plates:

- (a) License plates issued to vehicles registered under section 168.017 must display the month of expiration in the lower left corner of each plate and the year of expiration in the lower right corner of each plate.
- (b) License plates issued to vehicles registered under section 168.127 must display either fleet registration validation stickers in the lower right corner of each plate or distinctive license plates, issued by the registrar, with "FLEET REG" displayed on the bottom center portion of each plate.
- (c) License plates issued after July 1, 2008, requiring validation must display the month of expiration in the lower left corner of each plate and the year of expiration in the lower right corner of the plate.