

House Research Act Summary

CHAPTER: 426

SESSION: 2000 Regular Session

TOPIC: Department of Public Safety Housekeeping Bill

Date: April 14, 2000

Analyst: John Williams, 651-296-5045

This publication can be made available in alternative formats upon request. Please call 651-296-6753 (voice); or the Minnesota State Relay Service at 1-800-627-3529 (TTY) for assistance. Summaries are also available on our website at: www.house.mn/hrd.

Overview

This bill makes several changes to motor vehicle and driver's license law. Most of the changes in the bill are technical or stylistic. The bill repeal of the law authorizing special Olympic fund-raising license plates and requires documentation of the source of the main components of assembled motorcycles before they can be titled. It limits the locations where school buses are prohibited from using flashing lights and stop arms. It clarifies the open bottle law and substitutes federal for state regulations on emergency vehicle sirens and odometer disclosures. The \$50 cap on commercial vehicle inspections by private inspectors is repealed.

- 1 **Unregistered vehicles.** Makes stylistic changes to the law governing unregistered vehicles.
- 2 **Registration of leased vehicles.** Expands the law that allows a motor vehicle lessor to register a previously-unregistered vehicle for a period of four or more months. This section expands this authorization to include renewals as well as new registrations.
Deletes the provision that limits the registration period of such a vehicle to a maximum of 15 months. The minimum registration period of 3 months is retained.
- 3 **Number on semitrailer plates.** Deletes the requirement that the number on semitrailer plates must correlate with the certificate of title documentation for the semitrailer that is on file with the department. Makes stylistic changes.
- 545 **Veterans service organization plates for motorcycles.** Makes motorcycles ineligible to receive special veterans service organization license plates.
- 6 **Design of Olympic license plates.** Deletes reference to special Olympic license plates from the law that provides for decals on special license plates. (The law authorizing Olympic plates is repealed under section 32.).
- 7 **Proof of ownership.** Allows a registration certificate in lieu of a certificate of title for issuance of license plates for vehicles with no title.

- 8 **Transfer of ownership.** Deletes the law that requires plates for a vehicle the ownership of which has been transferred to be returned to the state. Requires a person who sells a vehicle to another Minnesota resident surrender the plates and assign credit for the remaining months of registration tax to the buyer.
- 9 **Refunds.** Amends the law that allows sellers of vehicles to assign tax paid on the vehicle to the new owner, by making it mandatory rather than permissive. Excludes interstate trucks registered under the prorate system.
- 10 **Base state reciprocity.** Deletes language that specifies a vehicle's "base state" for purposes of base state reciprocity. Retains the provision that allows the department to make the final determination of base-state status.
- 11 **Installment payments.** Limits the existing law that allows installment payments of registration tax for any registered vehicle, by making it apply only to farm trucks, trucks, trailers, and recreational vehicles.
- 12 **Motor vehicle registration filing fee.** Provides that when the state collects the \$3.50 filing fee for vehicle registrations in connection with a title transfer or first registration in Minnesota, the revenue from the fee is divided equally between the general fund and highway user tax distribution fund. The filing fee for other registrations would go into the highway user tax distribution fund.
- Under present law the state-collected filing fee on new vehicles is divided equally between the highway user fund and the general fund, while the filing fee for other vehicles goes entirely into the highway user tax distribution fund.
- 13 **Transfer fee.** Amends the law establishing a \$2 fee on transfers of vehicle title by providing that the deposit of revenues from the fee into the general fund is subject to another law that provides for a standing appropriation of that revenue to the department of public safety for administration of the certificate of title law.
- 14 **Balance to general fund.** Makes technical changes. Restores the name of the transfer of ownership revolving fund.
- 15 **Vehicles exempt from certificate of title requirement.** Changes the law on vehicles not having a certificate of title. Under present law a list of vehicles is described as not requiring a certificate of title. Under this change the state would be prohibited from issuing a title to this list of vehicles, in addition to those for which a title is not required under present law:
- any federally-owned vehicle, including those registered in Minnesota.
 - vehicles regularly used in interstate commerce and titled in another state, only if the vehicle is owned by a nonresident.
 - a trailer under 4,000 pounds unless a secured party holds an interest in the trailer or the trailer had previously been titled in Minnesota or another state.
- **Titles for assembled motorcycles.** Requires an applicant for a certificate of title for an
171617 assembled motorcycle to be accompanied by documentation (manufacturer's statement, certificate of origin, vendor receipts) of the source of the motorcycle's main components.
- 18 **Delivery of certificate.** Makes technical changes. Allows a title to be delivered to the owner rather than requiring mailing.
- 19 **Title fees.** Makes technical changes.
- 20 **New certificates.** Makes technical changes. Allows a title to be delivered to the owner rather than requiring mailing.
- 21 **Title transfer fee.** Provides that the \$2 fee for transfers of title be paid into the general fund. Under present law the revenue from this fund is already paid into the general fund.

- **Open bottle law.** Provides that the open bottle law (prohibiting consuming alcohol and carrying
242224 open containers of alcoholic beverages in motor vehicles) applies to alcoholic beverages,
distilled spirits, and 3.2 beer.
- 25 **Designated school bus stops.** Amends the law that prohibits school bus drivers from activating
flashing warning lights and stop arm when loading and unloading off the traveled portion of a
divided one-way roadway. Under this language this prohibition would apply only at a
designated school bus stop. Such a designated school bus stop would have to be at a location
where persons are not required to cross the street or highway, and would have to allow the bus
to pull completely off the traveled portion of a roadway. Designation would be made by the
transportation director of the school district, in consultation with the local road authority, and
would be approved by the school board.
- 26 **Approval of sirens.** Deletes the requirement that sirens on emergency vehicles be of a type
approved by the department of public safety, and substitutes a requirement that it conform to
federal certification standards for sirens.
- 27 **Commercial vehicle inspection fee.** Repeals the \$50 limit on the fee charged by a private
inspector for inspection of a commercial vehicle.
- 28 **Reinstatement fee.** Deletes expired language in the law allocating proceeds from the fee for
reinstating a driver's license other than for a licensed revoked on an alcohol-related violation.
Provides that the handling charge for this reinstatement is paid to any driver licensing agent
rather than being paid only to county-operated deputy registrar offices.
- 29 **DWI reinstatement fee.** Provides that the handling charge for a driver's license reinstatement
after revocation for an alcohol-related violation is paid to any driver licensing agent rather than
being paid only to county-operated deputy registrar offices.
- 30 **Odometer disclosure.** Repeals the requirement that the form of written disclosures of vehicle
mileage by a seller to a buyer must be adopted by the department of public safety under the
administrative procedure act, and substitutes a provision adopting by reference the form
prescribed in federal regulations.
- 31 **Repeal of sunset provision on leased vehicles.** Repeals the June 1, 2000, sunset of a 1995 law
that allows persons with leased vehicles to extend for up to 11 months their registration period
to coincide with the period of the lease.
- 32 **Repealer.** Repeals the law authorizing special Olympic fund-raising plates.
- 33 **Effective date.** Makes sections 16, 17, 22 to 24, 27, and 31 effective immediately.