

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to registration and titling of
3 vehicles and vessels; amending s. 320.055, F.S.;
4 revising registration periods for certain vehicles;
5 requiring the Department of Highway Safety and Motor
6 Vehicles to prorate registration renewals for
7 customers in order to implement changes made by the
8 act; amending s. 320.0609, F.S.; authorizing the
9 department or its agent to verify necessary
10 information through the electronic file of death
11 records maintained by the Department of Health for a
12 surviving spouse of a motor vehicle owner when
13 requesting a registration certificate and license
14 plate transfer; amending ss. 320.07 and 320.0705,
15 F.S.; conforming provisions to changes made by the
16 act; amending s. 328.01, F.S.; authorizing the
17 Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles or its
18 agent to verify necessary information through the
19 electronic file of death records maintained by the
20 Department of Health for a new owner or surviving
21 coowner of a vessel when applying for transfer of
22 title; providing effective dates.

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24 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
25

26 Section 1. Effective September 1, 2020, paragraph (a) of
27 subsection (1) and subsection (5) of section 320.055, Florida
28 Statutes, are amended to read:

29 320.055 Registration periods; renewal periods.—The
30 following registration periods and renewal periods are
31 established:

32 (1) (a) For a motor vehicle subject to registration under
33 s. 320.08(1), (2), (3), (4) (a) or (b), (5) (b), (c), (d), or (f),
34 (6) (a), (7), (8), (9), or (10) and owned by a natural person,
35 the registration period begins the first day of the birth month
36 of the owner and ends the last day of the month immediately
37 preceding the owner's birth month in the succeeding year. If
38 such vehicle is registered in the name of more than one person,
39 the birth month of the person whose name first appears on the
40 registration shall be used to determine the registration period.
41 For a vehicle subject to this registration period, the renewal
42 period is the 30-day period ending at midnight on the vehicle
43 owner's date of birth.

44 (5) For a vehicle subject to apportioned registration
45 under s. 320.08(4) (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), (h), (i), (j), (k),
46 (l), (m), or (n) ~~s. 320.08(4)~~, (5) (a)1. or (e), (6) (b), or
47 (14), the registration period shall be a period of 12 months
48 beginning in a month designated by the department and ending on
49 the last day of the 12th month. For a vehicle subject to this
50 registration period, the renewal period is the last month of the

51 registration period. The registration period may be shortened or
52 extended at the discretion of the department, on receipt of the
53 appropriate prorated fees, in order to evenly distribute such
54 registrations on a monthly basis. For a vehicle subject to
55 nonapportioned registration under s. 320.08(4)(c), (d), (e),
56 (f), (g), (h), (i), (j), (k), (l), (m), or (n) ~~s. 320.08(4),~~
57 (5)(a)1., (6)(b), or (14), the registration period begins
58 December 1 and ends November 30. The renewal period is the 31-
59 day period beginning December 1.

60 Section 2. Beginning September 1, 2020, in order to
61 implement the changes made by this act to s. 320.055, Florida
62 Statutes, the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles
63 shall give customers the option to renew their registrations on
64 their dates of birth in 2021 or 2022. Customers whose dates of
65 birth occur in the months of January through June may choose to
66 renew for 1 to 18 months. Customers whose dates of birth occur
67 in the months of July through December may choose to renew for 7
68 to 24 months.

69 Section 3. Subsection (7) of section 320.0609, Florida
70 Statutes, is amended to read:

71 320.0609 Transfer and exchange of registration license
72 plates; transfer fee.—

73 (7) A surviving spouse of a registered owner of any motor
74 vehicle may, upon presenting the death certificate, request a
75 registration certificate and transfer of the registration

76 | license plate. If the surviving spouse does not present the
 77 | death certificate, the department or its agent may verify the
 78 | necessary information through the electronic file of death
 79 | records maintained by the Department of Health.

80 | Section 4. Effective September 1, 2020, paragraph (a) of
 81 | subsection (2) of section 320.07, Florida Statutes, is amended
 82 | to read:

83 | 320.07 Expiration of registration; renewal required;
 84 | penalties.—

85 | (2) Registration shall be renewed semiannually, annually,
 86 | or biennially, as provided in this subsection, during the
 87 | applicable renewal period, upon payment of the applicable
 88 | license tax amounts required by s. 320.08, service charges
 89 | required by s. 320.04, and any additional fees required by law.

90 | (a) Any person who owns a motor vehicle registered under
 91 | s. 320.08(4)(c), (d), (e), (f), (g), (h), (i), (j), (k), (l),
 92 | (m), or (n) ~~s. 320.08(4)~~, (6)(b), or (13) may register
 93 | semiannually as provided in s. 320.0705.

94 | Section 5. Effective September 1, 2020, subsection (1) of
 95 | section 320.0705, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

96 | 320.0705 Semiannual registration or renewal for certain
 97 | vehicles.—

98 | (1) The owner of a motor vehicle taxed under s.
 99 | 320.08(4)(c), (d), (e), (f), (g), (h), (i), (j), (k), (l), (m),
 100 | or (n) ~~s. 320.08(4)~~ or (6)(b) may register his or her vehicle

101 semiannually, if the amount of license tax due annually is more
102 than \$100 and the vehicle registration fee is not required to be
103 apportioned, upon payment of a fee of \$2.50 for each semiannual
104 registration.

105 Section 6. Paragraph (c) of subsection (3) of section
106 328.01, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

107 328.01 Application for certificate of title.—

108 (3)

109 (c) In making application for transfer of title from a
110 deceased titled owner, the new owner or surviving coowner shall
111 establish proof of ownership by submitting with the application
112 the original certificate of title and the decedent's probated
113 last will and testament or letters of administration appointing
114 the personal representative of the decedent. In lieu of a
115 probated last will and testament or letters of administration, a
116 copy of the decedent's death certificate, a copy of the
117 decedent's last will and testament, and an affidavit by the
118 decedent's surviving spouse or heirs affirming rights of
119 ownership may be accepted by the department. If the decedent
120 died intestate, a court order awarding the ownership of the
121 vessel or an affidavit by the decedent's surviving spouse or
122 heirs establishing or releasing all rights of ownership and a
123 copy of the decedent's death certificate shall be submitted to
124 the department. If the new owner or surviving coowner does not
125 present a copy of the death certificate, the department or its

CS/CS/HB 87

2019

126 | agent may verify the necessary information through the
127 | electronic file of death records maintained by the Department of
128 | Health.

129 | Section 7. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this
130 | act, this act shall take effect July 1, 2019.