

HOUSE BILL NO. 196

INTRODUCED BY B. BEARD

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A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT IMPOSING A FEE ON CERTAIN VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS TO SUPPORT VOLUNTEER EMERGENCY RESPONSE; ESTABLISHING PROCEDURES FOR DISTRIBUTING REVENUE RAISED BY THE FEE; CREATING A SPECIAL REVENUE ACCOUNT; REQUIRING A REPORT; AMENDING SECTION 61-3-321, MCA; AND PROVIDING A DELAYED EFFECTIVE DATE AND A TERMINATION DATE."

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

**NEW SECTION. Section 1. Funding of volunteer emergency medical services -- reporting.** (1) No

later than March 1 of each year, the department shall distribute to eligible rural fire districts and emergency medical services money from the account provided for in [section 2] if the fire district or emergency medical service requests funding for purposes authorized by this section.

(2) (a) A rural fire district is eligible for funding under this section if it:

(i) is organized pursuant to Title 7, chapter 33, part 21;

(ii) is located at least 20 miles from an incorporated city or town with a population of more than 500 people as determined by the midyear estimate published by the U.S. census bureau; and

(iii) operates an emergency medical service staffed primarily by volunteer emergency medical technicians or has a mutual aid agreement with an emergency medical service, as allowed under 7-33-2108, that is staffed primarily by volunteer emergency medical technicians and is located at least 20 miles from an incorporated city or town with a population of more than 500 people as determined by the midyear estimate published by the U.S. census bureau.

(b) An emergency medical service not affiliated with a rural fire district, a hospital, or a governmental entity is eligible for funds under this section if it is staffed primarily by volunteer emergency medical technicians.

(3) The department shall calculate the amount of money raised from the counties in each of the state's trauma regions, as defined in 50-6-401, and shall disburse the amount equally among the fire districts and emergency medical services in each region that have requested funds and that meet the eligibility requirements of subsection (2).



1 (4) If a fire district has a mutual aid agreement with an emergency medical service meeting the  
2 requirements of subsection (2), the department shall consider the fire district and the emergency medical service  
3 to be separate entities when calculating disbursements under this section.

4 (5) Funds disbursed under this section may be used only for operating, training, or equipment costs.

5 (6) The department shall require entities receiving funds under this section to report on the use of the  
6 funds and to return any funds that are unencumbered at the end of the calendar year. By March 1, the department  
7 shall reallocate the returned funds equally among other eligible entities that received funds during the previous  
8 calendar year.

9 (7) The department shall report to the children, families, health, and human services interim committee  
10 by August 15 of each even-numbered year on the number of fire districts and emergency medical services  
11 receiving funds pursuant to this section, the purposes for which the funds were used, and the amount of money  
12 returned to the department each year.

13

14 **NEW SECTION. Section 2. Special revenue account for volunteer emergency medical services.**

15 (1) There is an account in the state special revenue fund provided for in 17-2-102 to the credit of the department  
16 of public health and human services to support volunteer emergency medical services as provided in [section 1].

17 (2) Money collected from the registration fee provided for in 61-3-321(21) must be deposited in the  
18 account. The department of justice shall provide a report to the department indicating the amount of money the  
19 fee raised in each county.

20 (3) Money from the account may be appropriated to the department only for distribution as provided in  
21 [section 1] and for use as provided in subsection (4).

22 (4) The account must be invested as provided by law. Interest and income accruing on the account must  
23 be credited to the account and appropriated to the department to pay for the costs of carrying out the purposes  
24 of [section 1].

25

26 **Section 3.** Section 61-3-321, MCA, is amended to read:

27 **"61-3-321. Registration fees of vehicles and vessels -- certain vehicles exempt from registration**  
28 **fees -- disposition of fees.** (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section, registration fees must be paid upon  
29 registration or, if applicable, renewal of registration of motor vehicles, snowmobiles, watercraft, trailers,  
30 semitrailers, and pole trailers as provided in subsections (2) through (20).

- 1 (2) Unless a light vehicle is permanently registered under 61-3-562, the annual registration fee for light  
2 vehicles, trucks and buses under 1 ton, and logging trucks less than 1 ton is as follows:
- 3 (a) if the vehicle is 4 or less years old, \$217;  
4 (b) if the vehicle is 5 through 10 years old, \$87; and  
5 (c) if the vehicle is 11 or more years old, \$28.
- 6 (3) Except as provided in subsection (15), the one-time registration fee based on the declared weight  
7 of a trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer is as follows:
- 8 (a) if the declared weight is less than 6,000 pounds, \$61.25; or  
9 (b) if the declared weight is 6,000 pounds or more, \$148.25.
- 10 (4) Except as provided in subsection (15), the one-time registration fee for motor vehicles owned and  
11 operated solely as collector's items pursuant to 61-3-411, based on the weight of the vehicle, is as follows:
- 12 (a) 2,850 pounds and over, \$10; and  
13 (b) under 2,850 pounds, \$5.
- 14 (5) Except as provided in subsection (15), the one-time registration fee for off-highway vehicles other  
15 than a quadricycle or motorcycle is \$61.25.
- 16 (6) The annual registration fee for heavy trucks, buses, and logging trucks in excess of 1 ton is \$22.75.
- 17 (7) (a) The annual registration fee for a motor home, based on the age of the motor home, is as follows:
- 18 (i) less than 2 years old, \$282.50;  
19 (ii) 2 years old and less than 5 years old, \$224.25;  
20 (iii) 5 years old and less than 8 years old, \$132.50; and  
21 (iv) 8 years old and older, \$97.50.
- 22 (b) The owner of a motor home that is 11 years old or older and that is subject to the registration fee  
23 under this section may permanently register the motor home upon payment of:
- 24 (i) a one-time registration fee of \$237.50;  
25 (ii) unless a new set of license plates is being issued, an insurance verification fee of \$5, which must be  
26 deposited in the account established under 61-6-158;  
27 (iii) if applicable, five times the renewal fees for personalized license plates under 61-3-406; and  
28 (iv) if applicable, the donation fee for a generic specialty license plate under 61-3-480 or a collegiate  
29 license plate under 61-3-465.
- 30 (8) (a) Except as provided in subsection (15), the one-time registration fee for motorcycles and

1 quadricycles registered for use on public highways is \$53.25, and the one-time registration fee for motorcycles  
2 and quadricycles registered for both off-road use and for use on the public highways is \$114.50.

3 (b) An additional fee of \$16 must be collected for the registration of each motorcycle or quadricycle as  
4 a safety fee, which must be deposited in the state motorcycle safety account provided for in 20-25-1002.

5 (9) Except as provided in subsection (15), the one-time registration fee for travel trailers, based on the  
6 length of the travel trailer, is as follows:

7 (a) under 16 feet in length, \$72; and

8 (b) 16 feet in length or longer, \$152.

9 (10) Except as provided in subsection (15), the one-time registration fee for a motorboat, sailboat,  
10 personal watercraft, or motorized pontoon required to be numbered under 23-2-512 is as follows:

11 (a) for a personal watercraft or a motorboat, sailboat, or motorized pontoon less than 16 feet in length,  
12 \$65.50;

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

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

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

18 (b) (i) A snowmobile that is licensed by a Montana business and is owned exclusively for the purpose  
19 of daily rental to customers is assessed:

20 (A) a fee of \$40.50 in the first year of registration; and

21 (B) if the business reregisters the snowmobile for a second year, a fee of \$20.

22 (ii) If the business reregisters the snowmobile for a third year, the snowmobile must be permanently  
23 registered and the business is assessed the registration fee imposed in subsection (11)(a).

24 (12) (a) The one-time registration fee for a low-speed electric vehicle is \$25.

25 (b) The one-time registration fee for a golf cart that is owned by a person who has or is applying for a  
26 low-speed restricted driver's license is \$25.

27 (c) The one-time registration fee for golf carts authorized to operate on certain public streets and  
28 highways pursuant to 61-8-391 is \$25. Upon receipt of the fee, the department shall issue the owner a decal,  
29 which must be displayed visibly on the golf cart.

30 (13) (a) Except as provided in subsection (13)(b), a fee of \$10 must be collected when a new set of

1 standard license plates, a new single standard license plate, or a replacement set of special license plates  
2 required under 61-3-332 is issued. The \$10 fee imposed under this subsection does not apply when previously  
3 issued license plates are transferred under 61-3-335. All registration fees imposed under this section must be  
4 paid if the vehicle to which the plates are transferred is not currently registered.

5 (b) An additional fee of \$15 must be collected if a vehicle owner elects to keep the same license plate  
6 number from license plates issued before January 1, 2010, when replacement of those plates is required under  
7 61-3-332(3).

8 (c) The fees imposed in this subsection (13) must be deposited in the account established under  
9 61-6-158, except that \$2 of the fee imposed in subsection (13)(a) must be deposited in the state general fund.

10 (14) The provisions of this part with respect to the payment of registration fees do not apply to and are  
11 not binding upon motor vehicles, trailers, semitrailers, snowmobiles, watercraft, or tractors owned or controlled  
12 by the United States of America or any state, county, city, or special district, as defined in 18-8-202, or to a vehicle  
13 or vessel that meets the description of property exempt from taxation under 15-6-201(1)(a), (1)(d), (1)(e), (1)(g),  
14 (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.

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

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

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

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

25 (19) (a) Unless a person exercises the option in either subsection (19)(b) or (19)(c), an additional fee of  
26 \$6 must be collected for each light vehicle registered under this part. This fee must be accounted for and  
27 transmitted separately from the registration fee. The fee must be deposited in an account in the state special  
28 revenue fund to be used for state parks, for fishing access sites, and for the operation of state-owned facilities.  
29 Of the \$6 fee, the department of fish, wildlife, and parks shall use \$5.37 for state parks, 25 cents for fishing  
30 access sites, and 38 cents for the operation of state-owned facilities at Virginia City and Nevada City.

1 (b) A person who registers a light vehicle may, at the time of annual registration, certify that the person  
 2 does not intend to use the vehicle to visit state parks and fishing access sites and may make a written election  
 3 not to pay the additional \$6 fee provided for in subsection (19)(a). If a written election is made, the fee may not  
 4 be collected.

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

10 (ii) The written election not to pay the additional fee on a light vehicle expires if the vehicle is registered  
 11 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) For each light vehicle, motor home, bus, or heavy truck subject to a registration fee under this  
 16 section, an additional fee of \$2 must be collected and forwarded to the state for deposit in the account established  
 17 in [section 2].

18 ~~(24)~~(22) This section does not apply to a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer that is governed  
 19 by 61-3-721."

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 21 NEW SECTION. Section 4. Codification instruction. [Sections 1 and 2] are intended to be codified  
 22 as an integral part of Title 50, chapter 6, part 3, and the provisions of Title 50, chapter 6, part 3, apply to [sections  
 23 1 and 2].

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 25 NEW SECTION. Section 5. Effective date. [This act] is effective January 1, 2018.

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 27 NEW SECTION. Section 6. Termination. (1) [This act] terminates December 31, 2024.

28 (2) (a) Any money unencumbered by rural fire districts or emergency medical services on December 31,  
 29 2024, must be returned to the department by January 15, 2025, for deposit in the special revenue account  
 30 provided for in [section 2].

