

HOUSE BILL NO. 558

INTRODUCED BY N. SCHWADERER

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A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REVISING REQUIREMENTS AND PROHIBITIONS IN REGARD TO PIONEER, VINTAGE, AND ORIGINAL MONTANA LICENSE PLATES; EXTENDING RULEMAKING AUTHORITY; AMENDING SECTIONS 61-3-411, 61-3-412, AND 61-3-413, MCA; AND PROVIDING A DELAYED EFFECTIVE DATE AND AN APPLICABILITY DATE."

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

Section 1. Section 61-3-411, MCA, is amended to read:

"61-3-411. Registration of motor vehicle owned and operated solely as collector's item. (1) An owner of a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer that is more than 30 years old and that is used solely as a collector's item and is not used for general transportation purposes may file with the department an application for the registration of the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer. The application must be sworn to before an officer authorized to administer oaths. The application must state:

- (a) the name and address of the owner;
- (b) the name and address of the person from whom the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer was purchased;
- (c) the make, the gross weight, the year and number of the model, and the manufacturer's identification number and serial number of the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer; and
- (d) that the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer is owned and operated solely as a collector's item and not for general transportation purposes.

(2) Upon receipt of the application for registration and payment of the registration fees, including fees in lieu of tax, the department shall file the application and register the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer in the manner specified in 61-3-303 and, unless the applicant chooses to exercise the option allowed in 61-3-412, shall deliver to the applicant:

- (a) for a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer manufactured in 1933 or earlier, two license plates bearing the inscription "Pioneer--Montana" and either the registration number or a combination of letters or numbers selected by the applicant according to rules adopted by the department; or



1 (b) for a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer manufactured in 1934 or later and more than
 2 30 years old, two license plates bearing the inscription "Vintage--Montana" and either the registration number or
 3 a combination of letters or numbers selected by the applicant according to rules adopted by the department.

4 (3) The year of issuance may not be shown on the plates.

5 (4) Annual renewal of the registration of a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer registered
 6 under this section is not required, and the registration is valid as long as the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or
 7 pole trailer is in existence and owned by the initial registrant."

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9 **Section 2.** Section 61-3-412, MCA, is amended to read:

10 **"61-3-412. Display of original Montana license plates on collector's item and general**
 11 **transportation collector's item motor vehicles -- definition -- validation.** (1) As used in 61-3-413 and this
 12 section, "original Montana license plate" means a license plate issued according to the provisions of 61-3-331;
 13 section 53-116, R.C.M. 1947; section 1759.1, R.C.M. 1935; or section 1759, R.C.M. 1921; whichever section was
 14 effective during the year of the manufacture of the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer on which the
 15 license plate is authorized to be displayed.

16 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of 61-3-332, the department shall authorize the owner of a motor
 17 vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer registered as provided in 61-3-411 or 61-3-413 to display original
 18 Montana license plates, with validation as required in 61-3-413 or subsection (4) of this section, after:

19 (a) payment of the fee required in subsection (6);

20 (b) inspection by a highway patrol officer of the original Montana license plate to be displayed on the
 21 motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer and, upon payment of a \$5 fee, receipt of the highway patrol
 22 officer's certification that the officer has determined that:

23 (i) the license plate is legible and meets the requirements of subsection (1); and

24 (ii) in the case of a license plate intended for use on a general transportation collector's item, the license
 25 plate is visible at night; and

26 (c) receipt of an application by the owner of the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer as
 27 provided for in 61-3-411 or 61-3-413; and

28 ~~———(d) in the case of a general transportation collector's item application, certification from the department~~
 29 ~~that a duplicate license plate number does not exist among currently issued license plates.~~

30 (3) The owner of a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer manufactured in the year 1948, 1949,

1 or 1950 may display a single original Montana license plate that is affixed to the rear of the vehicle. The original
 2 Montana license plate must be legible and must bear the year that matches the year in which the vehicle was
 3 manufactured.

4 (4) If the owner of a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer meets the requirements of subsection
 5 (2), the department shall:

6 (a) register the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer as prescribed in 61-3-303; and

7 (b) issue a validating decal inscribed with:

8 (i) a unique number; and

9 (ii) the letter:

10 (A) "P" to designate motor vehicles, trailers, semitrailers, or pole trailers described in 61-3-411(2)(a); or

11 (B) "V" to designate motor vehicles, trailers, semitrailers, or pole trailers described in 61-3-411(2)(b).

12 (5) The owner of the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer shall permanently affix the validating
 13 decal to the windshield of the collector's item motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer or, if a windshield
 14 does not exist, to another prominent and visible position on the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer.

15 (6) The owner of the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer shall pay to the department with the
 16 application required under this section a one-time special collector's item motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole
 17 trailer license fee of \$20."

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19 **Section 3.** Section 61-3-413, MCA, is amended to read:

20 **"61-3-413. Registration of motor vehicle as general transportation collector's item -- definition**
 21 **-- permanent registration required.** (1) For the purposes of 61-3-412 and this section, a "general transportation
 22 collector's item" is a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer that is 25 years old or older and that is used
 23 for general transportation purposes.

24 (2) An owner of a general transportation collector's item who wishes to display original Montana license
 25 plates on the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer shall file with the department an application for the
 26 registration of the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer. The application must state:

27 (a) the name and address of the owner;

28 (b) the year and number of the license plate the applicant wishes to use; and

29 (c) the make, the gross weight, the year and number of the model, and the manufacturer's identification
 30 number and serial number of the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer.

1 (3) Upon receipt of an application for registration of a general transportation collector's item, the
2 department shall compare the number of the license plate that the applicant intends to use with the license plate
3 numbers assigned to currently registered motor vehicles, trailers, semitrailers, or pole trailers. The department
4 may not reject an application if the number the applicant intends to use matches a number that is assigned to a
5 currently registered motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer. If the department approves the application,
6 the department shall file the application and register the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer in the
7 manner specified in 61-3-101.

8 (4) Once an application is approved, appropriate fees are paid, and the requirements provided in
9 61-3-412(2) are met, an owner of a general transportation collector's item shall permanently register the motor
10 vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer as provided in 61-3-562 and shall display on the motor vehicle's, trailer's,
11 semitrailer's, or pole trailer's license plate a decal indicating that the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole
12 trailer has been permanently registered."

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14 NEW SECTION. Section 4. Effective date -- applicability. [This act] is effective January 1, 2016, and
15 applies to vehicle registrations occurring after December 31, 2015.

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