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HOUSE BILL 157

**53RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2018**

INTRODUCED BY

Patricio Ruiloba

AN ACT

RELATING TO LICENSE PLATES; REQUIRING THE PERIODIC REPLACEMENT  
OF LICENSE PLATES; INCREASING LICENSE PLATE FEES; MAKING AN  
APPROPRIATION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

**SECTION 1.** Section 66-3-17 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1978,  
Chapter 35, Section 37, as amended) is amended to read:

"66-3-17. REGISTRATION PLATE--REPLACEMENT OF PLATE.--

A. Succeeding registration renewals of the  
registration plate issued under Section 66-3-14 NMSA 1978 shall  
cause the division to issue a validating sticker only, except  
as provided in Subsections B [~~and C~~] through D of this section.

B. The person to whom the plate is issued may, at  
any time, apply for the issuance of a duplicate or replacement  
plate, and upon the surrender of the registration plate [~~he~~]

underscored material = new  
[bracketed material] = delete

1 the person then has, along with the payment of a reasonable fee  
2 set by the director that will cover the cost of the production  
3 and distribution of the plate, the applicant shall be issued a  
4 duplicate or replacement plate.

5 C. Any peace officer may, upon discovering that the  
6 registration plate of any vehicle is illegible because of wear  
7 or damage or other cause, issue a citation to the owner or  
8 operator of the vehicle. The citation shall provide that the  
9 owner shall, within thirty days from the date of the citation,  
10 apply for and obtain a duplicate or replacement plate from the  
11 division.

12 D. Except for registration plates issued pursuant  
13 to Section 66-3-27 or 66-3-423 NMSA 1978, no registration plate  
14 shall be valid for more than eight years. Prior to issuing a  
15 validating sticker to the owner of the vehicle that has a  
16 registration plate that has been in use for more than seven  
17 years, the department shall issue a replacement registration  
18 plate for that vehicle."

19 SECTION 2. A new section of Chapter 66, Article 6 NMSA  
20 1978 is enacted to read:

21 "[NEW MATERIAL] REGISTRATION PLATE FEE.--Except for  
22 registration plates issued pursuant to Section 66-3-27,  
23 66-3-415 or 66-3-426 NMSA 1978 or issued at no charge pursuant  
24 to Section 66-3-409, 66-3-411, 66-3-412, 66-3-413, 66-3-414,  
25 66-3-421 or 66-3-424.24 NMSA 1978, in addition to all other

.209292.2

underscoring material = new  
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1 fees collected by registration of vehicles pursuant to Section  
2 66-3-1 NMSA 1978 or by registration of vehicles pursuant to the  
3 Motor Transportation Act, there is imposed on each  
4 registration, for each year covered by the registration, a  
5 registration plate fee of two dollars (\$2.00) to be retained by  
6 the department and appropriated to the department to defray the  
7 cost of making and issuing registration plates."

8 SECTION 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.--The effective date of the  
9 provisions of this act is July 1, 2018.

