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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 C through E of this  
section.

B. The person to whom the registration plate is  
issued pursuant to Section 66-3-16 NMSA 1978 may, at any  
time, apply for the issuance of a duplicate or replacement  
plate, and upon the surrender of the plate the person then  
has, the applicant shall be issued a duplicate or replacement  
plate.

C. Except as provided in Subsection B of this  
section, 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 the  
person then has, along with the payment of a reasonable fee

1 set by the director that will cover the cost of the  
2 production and distribution of the plate, the applicant shall  
3 be issued a duplicate or replacement plate.

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

11 E. Except for registration plates issued pursuant  
12 to Section 66-3-2, 66-3-27 or 66-3-423 NMSA 1978, a  
13 registration plate shall not be valid for more than eight  
14 years. Prior to issuing a validating sticker to the owner of  
15 the vehicle that has a registration plate that has been in  
16 use for more than seven years, the department shall issue a  
17 replacement registration plate for that vehicle."

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

20 "REGISTRATION PLATE FEE.--Except for registration plates  
21 issued pursuant to Section 66-3-27, 66-3-415 or 66-3-423 NMSA  
22 1978 or issued at no charge pursuant to Section 66-3-16,  
23 66-3-409, 66-3-411, 66-3-412, 66-3-413, 66-3-414, 66-3-421 or  
24 66-3-424.24 NMSA 1978, in addition to all other fees  
25 collected by registration of vehicles pursuant to Section

1 66-3-1 NMSA 1978 or by registration of vehicles pursuant to  
2 the Motor Transportation Act, there is imposed on each  
3 registration, for each year covered by the registration, a  
4 registration plate fee of two dollars (\$2.00) to be retained  
5 by the department and appropriated to the department to  
6 defray the cost of making and issuing registration plates.  
7 Fees imposed pursuant to this section shall not revert to the  
8 general fund."

9 SECTION 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.--The effective date of the  
10 provisions of this act is January 1, 2020. \_\_\_\_\_

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