

AN ACT

RELATING TO MOTOR VEHICLES; PROVIDING FOR PERMANENT
REGISTRATION OF CERTAIN TRAILERS; CHANGING REGISTRATION FEES
FOR CERTAIN TRAILERS.

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

Section 1. Section 66-3-1 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1978,
Chapter 35, Section 21) is amended to read:

"66-3-1. VEHICLES SUBJECT TO REGISTRATION--
EXCEPTIONS.--

A. Every motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer and
pole trailer when driven or moved upon a highway is subject
to the registration and certificate of title provisions of
the Motor Vehicle Code except:

(1) any such vehicle driven or moved upon a
highway in conformance with the provisions of the Motor
Vehicle Code relating to manufacturers, dealers, lien-holders
or nonresidents;

(2) any such vehicle that is driven or moved
upon a highway only for the purpose of crossing the highway
from one property to another;

(3) any implement of husbandry that is only
incidentally operated or moved upon a highway;

(4) any special mobile equipment;

(5) any vehicle that is propelled

exclusively by electric power obtained from overhead trolley wires though not operated upon rails;

(6) freight trailers if they are:

(a) properly registered in another state;

(b) identified by a proper base registration plate that is properly displayed; and

(c) identified by other registration documents that are in the possession of the operator and exhibited at the request of a police officer; and

(7) freight trailers or utility trailers owned and used by:

(a) a nonresident solely for the transportation of farm products purchased by the nonresident from growers or producers of the farm products and transported in the trailer out of the state;

(b) farmers and ranchers who transport to market only the produce, animals or fowl produced by them or who transport back to their farms and ranches supplies for use thereon; or

(c) persons who transport animals to and from fairs, rodeos or other places, except racetracks, where the animals are exhibited or otherwise take part in performances, in trailers drawn by a motor vehicle or truck of less than ten thousand pounds gross vehicle weight rating

bearing a proper registration plate, but in no case shall the owner of an unregistered trailer described in this paragraph perform such uses for hire.

B. No certificate of title need be obtained for any vehicle of a type subject to registration owned by the government of the United States.

C. Every manufactured home shall be subject to the registration and certificate of title provisions of the Motor Vehicle Code, and each manufactured home shall at all times bear a current registration plate."

Section 2. Section 66-3-2 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1978, Chapter 35, Section 22) is amended to read:

"66-3-2. REGISTRATION--TRAILERS, SEMITRAILERS, POLE TRAILERS AND FREIGHT TRAILERS.--

A. The motor vehicle and motor transportation divisions, according to their appropriate jurisdictions, shall grant permanent registration to freight trailers subject to registration and may grant a permanent registration to utility trailers not used in commerce whose gross vehicle weight is less than six thousand one pounds upon application and payment of the fee required by Section 66-6-3 NMSA 1978. The registration shall expire, however, upon the transfer of title or interest in the vehicle, at which time the vehicle shall be reregistered.

B. In registering trailers, semitrailers and pole

trailers, the motor vehicle and motor transportation divisions may require such information and documents and may make such tests and investigations as they deem necessary and practicable to determine or to verify the empty weights and gross vehicle weights and to ensure that the vehicles may be safely and legally operated upon the highways of this state."

Section 3. Section 66-6-3 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1978, Chapter 35, Section 338, as amended) is amended to read:

"66-6-3. TRAILERS--REGISTRATION FEES.--

A. For the registration of freight trailers and utility trailers, the following fees shall be collected:

(1) for the permanent registration or reregistration of freight trailers, ten dollars (\$10.00);

(2) for the annual registration of each utility trailer not permanently registered, five dollars (\$5.00) plus one dollar (\$1.00) for each one hundred pounds or major fraction thereof of actual empty weight over five hundred pounds actual empty weight; except that in the case of travel trailers, actual empty weight shall be one-half of the gross factory shipping weight or, if gross factory shipping weight is not available, then actual empty weight shall be one-half of actual gross vehicle weight; and

(3) for the permanent registration of utility trailers not used in commerce that have a gross

vehicle weight of less than six thousand one pounds, twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) plus five dollars (\$5.00) for each one hundred pounds or major fraction thereof of actual empty weight over five hundred pounds actual empty weight; except that in the case of travel trailers, actual empty weight shall be one-half of the gross factory shipping weight or, if gross factory shipping weight is not available, then actual empty weight shall be one-half of actual gross vehicle weight and for the reregistration of such utility trailers upon their sale or transfer, five dollars (\$5.00).

B. At the option of the owner of a fleet of fifty or more utility trailers wishing to register them in New Mexico, the motor vehicle division shall issue a registration and registration plate for each trailer in the fleet, the registration and registration plate to expire on the last day of the final month of a five-year period. Registrations and registration plates shall be issued for five years only if the owner of the trailers meets the following requirements:

(1) application is made on forms prescribed by the motor vehicle division and payment of the proper fee is made;

(2) upon the option of the director, presentation is made at the time of registration of a surety bond, certificate of deposit or of other financial security; and

(3) payment is made by the fleet owner of all registration fees due each year prior to the expiration date. If such fees are not paid, all registrations and registration plates in the fleet shall be canceled."

Section 4. EFFECTIVE DATE.--The effective date of the provisions of this act is July 1, 1999. _____