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SENATE BILL 154

44TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 1999

INTRODUCED BY

Leonard Lee Rawson

AN ACT

RELATING TO MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION; CHANGING THE LOCATION OF MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION VALIDATING STICKERS.

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

Section 1. Section 66-3-14 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1978, Chapter 35, Section 34, as amended) is amended to read:

"66-3-14. REGISTRATION PLATES OR VALIDATING STICKERS TO BE FURNISHED BY DEPARTMENT-- REFLECTIVE MATERIAL. --

A. The department upon registering a vehicle shall issue a registration plate or a validating sticker to the owner of the vehicle. The validating sticker [~~may~~] shall be designed and required to be placed on the [~~registration plate or elsewhere on the vehicle~~] vehicle's window as prescribed by the department.

B. Each registration plate shall have a background

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1 of reflective material such that the registration number  
2 assigned to the vehicle is plainly legible from a distance of  
3 one hundred feet at night. The colors shall include those of  
4 the state flag, except prestige and special plates.

5 C. Each registration plate shall have displayed  
6 upon it:

7 (1) the registration number assigned to the  
8 person to whom it was issued; and

9 (2) the name of this state.

10 D. The department shall issue no registration  
11 plates for privately owned vehicles that contain the words  
12 "staff officer" or any other title except as otherwise  
13 provided by law.

14 E. All registration plates for private vehicles  
15 shall be alike in form except for the owner's registration  
16 number. The department shall adopt registration number  
17 systems for registration plates.

18 F. In lieu of or in addition to a registration  
19 plate or sticker for commercial motor vehicles, the department  
20 may issue an electronic identifying device. "

21 Section 2. Section 66-3-19 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1978,  
22 Chapter 35, Section 39, as amended by Laws 1995, Chapter 44,  
23 Section 2 and also by Laws 1995, Chapter 135, Section 12) is  
24 amended to read:

25 "66-3-19. RENEWAL OF REGISTRATION-- STAGGERED PERIOD FOR

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1 VEHICLES-- EXCEPTION FOR MANUFACTURED HOMES AND FREIGHT  
2 TRAILERS-- LATE REGISTRATION. --

3 A. The department, in order to operate a more  
4 uniform system of vehicle registration, is authorized for  
5 certain or all vehicles to:

6 (1) prorate registration fees by monthly  
7 increments, but after the initial registration adjustment  
8 period, renewals of registration shall be for a full twelve-  
9 month period;

10 (2) determine the specific registered vehicle  
11 owners and the numbers of these to be assigned to each  
12 registration period in order to maintain the system;

13 (3) notify each registered vehicle owner by  
14 mail at the last known address within an appropriate period  
15 prior to the beginning of the registration period to which the  
16 owner has been assigned. The notice shall include a renewal-  
17 of-registration application form specifying the amount of  
18 registration fees due and the specific dates of the  
19 registration period covered by the renewal application;

20 (4) provide for the retention of registration  
21 plates;

22 (5) provide for the issuance of validating  
23 stickers to be affixed [~~either to retained registration plates~~  
24 ~~or elsewhere~~] on the [~~vehicles~~] vehicles' windows as  
25 prescribed by the department to signify the registration of

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1 the vehicles for the current registration period; and  
2 (6) provide for identification purposes  
3 clearly recognizable distinctions between current and expired  
4 registration plates. To this end, the department, by whatever  
5 system or device the secretary may direct and which is  
6 approved by the chief of the New Mexico state police division  
7 of the department of public safety, shall ensure a practicable  
8 display of the proper and current registration of vehicles.

9 B. Certificates of title need not be renewed  
10 annually but shall remain valid until canceled by the  
11 department for cause or upon transfer of any interest shown in  
12 the certificate of title.

13 C. The vehicle registration of vehicles registered  
14 under the provisions of Subsection A of this section expires  
15 on the last day of the twelve-month period for which the  
16 vehicle has been registered. Every vehicle registration other  
17 than vehicles registered in accordance with Subsection A of  
18 this section, manufactured homes and freight trailers expires  
19 December 31. The department may receive applications for  
20 renewal of registration and may issue new registration  
21 evidence and registration plates or validating stickers at any  
22 time prior to expiration of registration.

23 D. The registration of a manufactured home or  
24 freight trailer need not be renewed annually, and the initial  
25 registration shall be effective and considered a current

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1 registration for the purpose of the Motor Vehicle Code as long  
2 as the ownership of the vehicle is not transferred. The  
3 transfer of title provisions of the Motor Vehicle Code do  
4 apply to manufactured homes and freight trailers, and the  
5 transferee is required to register the vehicle in accordance  
6 with Section 66-3-103 NMSA 1978. The department is authorized  
7 and directed to issue distinctive registration plates for  
8 manufactured homes and freight trailers that identify the  
9 plates as permanent registration plates.

10 E. It is unlawful to operate or transport or cause  
11 to be transported upon any highways in this state any vehicle,  
12 except a commercial motor vehicle registered in another state  
13 or a manufactured home, subject to registration under the  
14 provisions of the Motor Vehicle Code without having paid the  
15 registration fee or without having secured and constantly  
16 displayed the registration plate required by the Motor Vehicle  
17 Code. If a vehicle, other than a manufactured home, is  
18 operated or transported after the expiration of the vehicle  
19 registration, the owner of the vehicle is subject to a penalty  
20 of the greater of ten dollars (\$10.00) or, if the vehicle is  
21 operated or transported thirty-one or more days after the  
22 expiration of the registration, an amount equal to seventy-  
23 five percent of the registration fee. Any duly appointed  
24 deputy or agent of the department has the authority to seize  
25 the vehicle and hold it until the fee, penalty and any fine

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1 that may be imposed for violation of law are paid and may sell  
2 the vehicle in the manner provided by law for the distraint  
3 and sale of personal property.

4 F. It is unlawful to operate, transport or cause  
5 to be transported upon any highways in this state or to  
6 maintain in any place in this state a manufactured home  
7 subject to registration under the provisions of the Motor  
8 Vehicle Code without having paid the registration fee or  
9 without having secured and constantly displayed the  
10 registration plate required by the Motor Vehicle Code.  
11 Violation of this subsection subjects the owner to a penalty  
12 of five dollars (\$5.00), and no other administrative penalty  
13 for failure to register under the Motor Vehicle Code shall be  
14 imposed upon manufactured homes that are subject to the  
15 provisions of Section 66-6-10 NMSA 1978. Any duly appointed  
16 deputy or agent of the department has authority to seize the  
17 manufactured home and hold it until the fee, penalties and any  
18 fine that may be imposed for violation of law are paid and may  
19 sell the manufactured home in the manner provided by law for  
20 the distraint and sale of personal property.

21 G. This section authorizes a staggered system of  
22 registration of vehicles. "

23 Section 3. Section 66-3-104 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1978,  
24 Chapter 35, Section 51, as amended) is amended to read:

25 "66-3-104. USE OF PLATE AND REGISTRATION NUMBER ON

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1 ANOTHER VEHICLE--TRANSFER OF REGISTRATION.--

2 A. Whenever the owner of a registered vehicle  
3 assigns title or interest to the vehicle, the registration of  
4 that vehicle expires. At such time, the owner shall remove  
5 and retain the registration plate from the vehicle and, within  
6 thirty days of the transfer, either shall make application to  
7 have the registration number assigned to another vehicle of  
8 the same class or shall forward the plate to the department or  
9 its authorized agent to be destroyed. The registration plate  
10 shall be transferred only where the application for transfer  
11 is made in the name of the original registered owner unless  
12 the owner's name has been changed by marriage, divorce or  
13 court order.

14 B. The registration plate shall not be displayed  
15 upon the newly acquired vehicle until the registration of the  
16 vehicle has been completed and a new registration certificate  
17 and validating sticker are issued. However, the temporary  
18 retail-sale permit issued for the vehicle by the dealer  
19 pursuant to the provisions of Section 66-3-6 NMSA 1978 may be  
20 securely attached to the plate to be transferred and displayed  
21 in accordance with Subsection A of Section 66-3-18 NMSA 1978. "

22 Section 4. TEMPORARY PROVISION--ISSUING VALIDATING  
23 STICKERS.--The taxation and revenue department shall issue the  
24 window-placed validating stickers required by the provisions  
25 of this act upon registering a vehicle and upon renewal of

1 registration of a vehicle; provided that by June 30, 2000, all  
2 vehicles registered by the department shall have been issued  
3 window-placed validating stickers.

4 Section 5. EFFECTIVE DATE. --The effective date of the  
5 provisions of this act is July 1, 1999.

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1 FORTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE

2 FIRST SESSION, 1999

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5 February 2, 1999

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7 Mr. President:

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9 Your CORPORATIONS & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE, to  
10 whom has been referred  
11

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13 SENATE BILL 154

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15 has had it under consideration and reports same with  
16 recommendation that it DO PASS, and thence referred to the  
17 PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE.

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19 Respectfully submitted,  
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Roman M. Maes, Chairman

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Adopted \_\_\_\_\_ Not

Adopted \_\_\_\_\_

(Chief Clerk)

(Chief Clerk)

Date \_\_\_\_\_

The roll call vote was 6 For 0 Against

Yes: 6

No: 0

Excused: Aragon, Fidel, Macias, Robinson

Absent: None

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