

**VEHICLE REGISTRATION RENEWAL REQUIREMENTS**

1999 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Sponsor: Kory M. Holdaway**

AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR VEHICLES; AMENDING CERTAIN VEHICLE REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS FOR GOVERNMENTAL VEHICLES.

This act affects sections of Utah Code Annotated 1953 as follows:

AMENDS:

**41-1a-215**, as last amended by Chapters 10 and 360, Laws of Utah 1997

**41-1a-221**, as renumbered and amended by Chapter 1, Laws of Utah 1992

**41-1a-402**, as last amended by Chapter 384, Laws of Utah 1997

**41-1a-407**, as renumbered and amended by Chapter 1, Laws of Utah 1992

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

Section 1. Section **41-1a-215** is amended to read:

**41-1a-215. Staggered registration dates - Exceptions.**

(1) (a) Except under Subsections (2) and (3), every vehicle registration, every registration card, and every registration plate issued under this chapter for the first registration of the vehicle in this state, continues in effect for a period of 12 months beginning with the first day of the calendar month of registration and does not expire until the last day of the same month in the following year.

(b) If the last day of the registration period falls on a day in which the appropriate state or county offices are not open for business, the registration of the vehicle is extended to midnight of the next business day.

(2) The provisions of Subsection (1) do not apply to the following:

- (a) registration issued to government vehicles under Section 41-1a-221;
- (b) registration issued to apportioned vehicles under Section 41-1a-301;
- (c) multiyear registration issued under Section 41-1a-222;
- (d) lifetime trailer registration issued under Section 41-1a-1206;
- (e) partial year registration issued under Section 41-1a-1207;

(f) vintage vehicle registration issued under Section 41-1a-226; or

(g) plates issued to a dealer, dismantler, manufacturer, remanufacturer, and transporter under Title 41, Chapter 3, Part 5, Special Dealer License Plates.

(3) Upon application of the owner or lessee of a fleet of commercial vehicles not apportioned under Section 41-1a-301 and required to be registered in this state, the State Tax Commission may permit the vehicles to be registered for a registration period commencing on the first day of March, June, September, or December of any year and expiring on the last day of March, June, September, or December in the following year.

(4) When the expiration of a registration plate is extended by affixing a [validation] registration decal to it, the expiration of the decal governs the expiration date of the plate.

Section 2. Section **41-1a-221** is amended to read:

**41-1a-221. Registration of vehicles of political subdivisions or state -- Renewal of registration -- Expiration of registration -- Certification of information -- Failure to comply.**

(1) (a) An entity referred to in Subsection 41-1a-407(1) shall register by June 30 of each year each vehicle that it owns, operates, or leases.

(b) This section does not apply to unmarked vehicles referred to in [Subsection] Section 41-1a-407 [~~(5)~~], which shall be registered by the expiration date on the registration card.

(2) (a) The entity shall apply to the division to renew registration pursuant to Section 41-1a-217.

(b) The division shall renew registration pursuant to Section 41-1a-216.

(3) A registration card and license plate issued to an entity under this section are in full force and effect until:

(a) the registration expires;

(b) the vehicle is no longer owned or operated by that entity; or

(c) the division takes action as provided in Subsection (6).

(4) (a) If the owner of a vehicle subject to the provisions of this section transfers or assigns title or interest in the vehicle, the registration of that vehicle expires.

(b) The transferor shall remove the license plates and within 20 days from the date of transfer

forward them to the division to be destroyed.

(5) Each entity shall:

- (a) account to the division annually for all "EX" license plates issued to it; and
- (b) certify to the division that the information is correct.

(6) If an entity fails to comply with this section, the division may:

- (a) refuse to renew the registration of its vehicles;
- (b) refuse to issue it additional license plates;
- (c) suspend all its vehicle registrations; and
- (d) recall license plates issued to an entity refusing to comply with this section.

Section 3. Section **41-1a-402** is amended to read:

**41-1a-402. Required colors, numerals, and letters -- Expiration.**

(1) Except as provided in Subsection (3) and in Section 41-1a-407, each license plate shall be in colors selected by the commission and shall have displayed on it:

- (a) the registration number assigned to the vehicle for which it is issued;
- (b) the name of the state;
- (c) a designation of the county in which the vehicle is registered as provided in Section 41-1a-406;
- (d) a registration decal showing the date of expiration; and
- (e) a slogan determined as provided in Section 41-1a-405.

(2) If registration is extended by affixing a [~~validation~~] registration decal to the license plate, the expiration date of the decal governs the expiration date of the license plate.

(3) [~~Beginning July 1, 1997, each~~] Each original license plate that is not one of the special group license plates issued under Section 41-1a-408 shall be a:

- (a) statehood centennial license plate with the same color, design, and slogan as the plates issued in conjunction with the statehood centennial; or
- (b) Ski Utah license plate.

Section 4. Section **41-1a-407** is amended to read:

**41-1a-407. Plates issued to political subdivisions or state -- Use of "EX" letters --**

**Confidential information.**

(1) Except as provided in Subsection (2), each [~~town, city~~] municipality, board of education, school district, state institution of learning, county, other governmental division, subdivision, or district, and the state shall:

(a) place a license plate displaying the letters, "EX" on every vehicle owned and operated by it or leased for its exclusive use; and

(b) display an identification mark designating the vehicle as the property of the entity in a conspicuous place on both sides of the vehicle.

(2) The entity need not display the "EX" license plate or the identification mark required by Subsection (1) if:

(a) the vehicle is in the direct service of the governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general, state auditor, or state treasurer of Utah;

(b) the vehicle is used in official investigative work where secrecy is essential;

(c) the vehicle is provided to an official of the entity as part of a compensation package allowing unlimited personal use of that vehicle; or

(d) the personal security of the occupants of the vehicle would be jeopardized if the "EX" license plate were in place.

(3) Plates issued to Utah Highway Patrol vehicles may bear the capital letters "UHP," a beehive logo, and the call number of the vehicle for which the plate is issued.

(4) The commission shall issue "EX" and "UHP" plates and shall make rules establishing the procedure for application for and distribution of the plates.

(5) For a vehicle that qualifies for "EX" or "UHP" license plates, the entity is not required to display an annual registration decal or a county designation under Section 41-1a-402.

~~[(5)]~~ (6) (a) Information shall be confidential for vehicles that are not required to display the "EX" license plate or the identification mark under Subsections (2)(a), (b), and (d).

(b) (i) If a law enforcement officer's identity must be kept secret, his agency head may request in writing that the division remove the license plate information of the officer's personal vehicles from all public access files and place it in a confidential file until the assignment is

completed.

- (ii) The agency head shall notify the division when the assignment is completed.