

1 **Vehicle Registration Amendments**

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Katy Hall

Senate Sponsor:

2 **LONG TITLE**3 **Committee Note:**

4 The Transportation Interim Committee recommended this bill.

5 Legislative Vote: 16 voting for 0 voting against 2 absent

6 **General Description:**

7 This bill allows the cancellation of vehicle registration and the refund of certain taxes and fees on a pro rata basis.

8 **Highlighted Provisions:**

9 This bill:

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- 11 ▶ allows the owner of certain vehicles to cancel the registration of the vehicle;
- 12 ▶ allows the owner of a vehicle that cancels the registration of the vehicle to receive a
- 13 refund of the registration fees and uniform fees in lieu of ad valorem tax on a pro rata
- 14 basis;
- 15 ▶ provides an additional penalty for operating a vehicle for which the registration has been
- 16 canceled by the vehicle owner; and
- 17 ▶ makes technical changes.

18 **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

19 None

20 **Other Special Clauses:**

21 This bill provides a special effective date.

22 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**23 **AMENDS:**24 **41-1a-201**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 45925 **41-1a-209**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2021, Chapter 13526 **53-8-209**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2020, Chapters 345, 35127 **59-2-405.1**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 27928

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

31 Section 1. Section **41-1a-201** is amended to read:

32 **41-1a-201 . Function of registration -- Registration required -- Penalty.**

33 (1) Unless exempted, a person or automated driving system may not operate and an owner
34 may not engage an automated driving system, give another person permission to engage
35 an automated driving system, or give another person permission to operate a motor
36 vehicle, combination of vehicles, trailer, semitrailer, vintage vehicle, restored-modified
37 vehicle, off-highway vehicle, vessel, or park model recreational vehicle in this state
38 unless it has been registered in accordance with this chapter, Chapter 22, Off-highway
39 Vehicles, Chapter 27, Novel Vehicle Registration, or Title 73, Chapter 18, State Boating
40 Act.

41 (2)(a) Subject to Subsection 53-8-209(3), a violation of this section is an infraction.

42 (b) In addition to a penalty under Subsection (2)(a), a vehicle owner is subject to an
43 additional \$100 fine if the vehicle owner:

44 (i) cancels a vehicle's registration as provided in Section 41-1a-209; and
45 (ii) violates Subsection (1).

46 (3)(a) In the event that materials are temporarily unavailable for registration items
47 required under Section 41-1a-402, the commission may delay initial vehicle
48 registration or renewal of vehicle registrations.

49 (b) In a circumstance described in Subsection (3)(a), a person does not violate
50 Subsection (1) for failure to register a vehicle during a delay period described in
51 Subsection (3)(a).

52 Section 2. Section **41-1a-209** is amended to read:

53 **41-1a-209 . Application for registration -- Contents.**

54 (1) An owner of a vehicle subject to registration under this part shall apply to the division
55 for registration on forms furnished by the division.

56 (2) The application for registration shall include:

57 (a) the signature of an owner of the vehicle to be registered;
58 (b) the name, bona fide residence and mailing address of the owner, or business address
59 of the owner if the owner is a firm, association, or corporation;
60 (c) a description of the vehicle including the make, model, type of body, the model year
61 as specified by the manufacturer, the number of cylinders, and the identification
62 number of the vehicle;
63 (d) other information required by the division to enable it to determine whether the
64 owner is lawfully entitled to register the vehicle; and

65 (e) an indication if the applicant is applying for automatic registration renewal as
66 described in Section 41-1a-216.

67 (3)(a) A vehicle owner may cancel registration of the vehicle electronically in the
68 manner prescribed by the division.

69 (b) A cancellation of registration described in Subsection (3)(a) does not obviate the
70 requirement for registration described in Section 41-1a-201.

71 (4)(a) Subject to Subsections (4)(c), (d), and (e), if an owner of a motor vehicle cancels
72 the registration of a motor vehicle that is 14,000 pounds or less gross laden weight
73 and subject to registration under this part, the owner is entitled to a refund of the
74 following fees for the portion of the year remaining since the date the fees were due
75 for that year:

- 76 (i) fees described in Section 41-1a-1206;
- 77 (ii) fees described in Section 41-1a-1222; and
- 78 (iii) fees described in Section 41-1a-1223.

79 (b) The division shall refund the registration fee on a pro rata monthly basis for any
80 whole month remaining in the registration period after the date of the cancellation.

81 (c) The division may withhold five dollars from the refund amount for the mailing and
82 administrative costs of administering the refund.

83 (d) If the amount of a refund under this section, when added to the refund amount
84 described in Section 59-2-405.1, does not exceed \$40, the vehicle owner is not
85 eligible for a refund.

86 (e) The following motor vehicles are not eligible for a refund under this Subsection (4):

- 87 (i) a motorcycle;
- 88 (ii) a motor vehicle with a gross laden weight of 14,001 pounds or more;
- 89 (iii) a roadable aircraft;
- 90 (iv) an off-highway vehicle;
- 91 (v) an all-terrain vehicle type I vehicle, all-terrain vehicle type II vehicle, or
92 all-terrain vehicle type III vehicle;
- 93 (vi) an off-highway implement of husbandry;
- 94 (vii) a street-legal all-terrain vehicle;
- 95 (viii) a recreational vehicle; or
- 96 (ix) a vintage vehicle.

97 Section 3. Section **53-8-209** is amended to read:

98 **53-8-209 . Inspection by officers -- Certificate of inspection.**

99 (1) A peace officer may stop, inspect, and test a vehicle at any time upon reasonable cause
100 to believe that:

- 101 (a) a vehicle is unsafe or not equipped as required by law;
- 102 (b) the vehicle's equipment is not in proper adjustment or repair; or
- 103 (c) the vehicle has been in an accident and a post accident investigation is necessary.

104 (2)(a)(i) If a vehicle is found to be in unsafe condition or any required part or
105 equipment is not present or is not in proper repair and adjustment, the officer may
106 give a written notice to the driver and shall send a copy to the division.

107 (ii) The notice shall:

- 108 (A) require that the vehicle be placed in safe condition and the vehicle's
109 equipment in proper repair and adjustment;
- 110 (B) specify the repairs and adjustments needed; and
- 111 (C) require that a safety inspection certificate be obtained within 14 days.

112 (b) If a vehicle is, in the reasonable judgment of the peace officer, hazardous to operate,
113 the peace officer may require that the vehicle:
114 (i) not be operated under its own power; or
115 (ii) be driven to the nearest garage or other place of safety.

116 (c)(i) If the owner or driver does not comply with the notice requirements and secure
117 a safety inspection certificate within 14 days, the vehicle may not be operated on
118 the highways of this state.
119 (ii) A violation of Subsection (2)(c)(i) is an infraction.

120 (3)(a) Except as provided in Subsection (3)(b), an owner or driver of a vehicle is not
121 guilty of an infraction and is not required to pay a fee or fine if the citation was
122 issued for:

- 123 [(a)] (i) expired registration in violation of Section 41-1a-201 or 41-1a-1303, and:
 - 124 [(i)] (A) the citation was issued within two months after the expiration of the
125 vehicle's registration; and
 - 126 [(ii)] (B) the owner or driver registers the vehicle within 14 days after the citation
127 was issued; or
- 128 [(b)] (ii) a violation of Section 41-1a-205, 41-6a-1601, or 53-8-205 or any other
129 equipment related infraction under Title 41, Chapter 6a, Part 16, Vehicle
130 Equipment, and the owner or driver obtains a safety inspection, emissions
131 inspection, or proof of repair, as applicable, within 14 days after the citation was
132 issued.

133 (b) Subsection (3)(a) does not apply to a vehicle owner who is operating a vehicle after
 134 canceling the vehicle registration as provided in Section 41-1a-209.

135 Section 4. Section **59-2-405.1** is amended to read:

136 **59-2-405.1 . Uniform fee on certain vehicles with a gross vehicle weight rating of**
 137 **14,000 pounds or less -- Distribution of revenues -- Appeals.**

138 (1) The property described in Subsection (2) is exempt from ad valorem property taxes
 139 pursuant to Utah Constitution, Article XIII, Section 2, Subsection (6).

140 (2)(a) Except as provided in Subsection (2)(b), there is levied as provided in this part a
 141 statewide uniform fee in lieu of the ad valorem tax on:

142 (i) motor vehicles as defined in Section 41-1a-102 that:

143 (A) are required to be registered with the state; and
 144 (B) have a gross vehicle weight rating of 14,000 pounds or less; and

145 (ii) state-assessed commercial vehicles required to be registered with the state that
 146 have a gross vehicle weight rating of 14,000 pounds or less.

147 (b) The following tangible personal property is exempt from the statewide uniform fee
 148 imposed by this section:

149 (i) aircraft;

150 (ii) tangible personal property subject to a uniform fee imposed by:

151 (A) Section 59-2-405;

152 (B) Section 59-2-405.2; or

153 (C) Section 59-2-405.3; and

154 (iii) tangible personal property that is exempt from state or county ad valorem
 155 property taxes under the laws of this state or of the federal government.

156 (3)(a) Except as provided in Subsections (3)(b) and (c), beginning on January 1, 1999,
 157 the uniform fee for purposes of this section is as follows:

Age of Vehicle	Uniform Fee
12 or more years	\$10
9 or more years but less than 12 years	\$50
6 or more years but less than 9 years	\$80
3 or more years but less than 6 years	\$110
Less than 3 years	\$150

164 (b) For registrations under Section 41-1a-215.5, the uniform fee for purposes of this
 165 section is as follows:

166	Age of Vehicle	Uniform Fee
167	12 or more years	\$7.75
168	9 or more years but less than 12 years	\$38.50
169	6 or more years but less than 9 years	\$61.50
170	3 or more years but less than 6 years	\$84.75
171	Less than 3 years	\$115.50

172 (c) Notwithstanding Subsections (3)(a) and (b), beginning on September 1, 2001, for a
 173 motor vehicle issued a temporary sports event registration certificate in accordance
 174 with Section 41-3-306, the uniform fee for purposes of this section is \$5 for the event
 175 period specified on the temporary sports event registration certificate regardless of
 176 the age of the motor vehicle.

177 (d)(i) Subject to Subsection (3)(d)(ii), for a vehicle registered for a 24-month period
 178 as provided in Section 41-1a-215.5, the uniform statewide fee amounts imposed
 179 by this section are double the amounts due for the same vehicle registered for a
 180 12-month period.

181 (ii) For a vehicle registered for a 24-month period as provided in Section 41-1a-215.5,
 182 if the 24-month term extends from one age bracket to another age bracket as
 183 described in this section, the person shall pay the sum of:
 184 (A) the uniform statewide fee amount for the first year corresponding to the age
 185 bracket applicable for the first 12 months of the registration period; and
 186 (B) the uniform statewide fee amount for the second year corresponding to the age
 187 bracket applicable for the second 12 months of the registration period.

188 (4) Notwithstanding Section 59-2-407, property subject to the uniform fee that is brought
 189 into the state and is required to be registered in [Utah] the state shall, as a condition of
 190 registration, be subject to the uniform fee unless all property taxes or uniform fees
 191 imposed by the state of origin have been paid for the current calendar year.

192 (5)(a) The revenues collected in each county from the uniform fee shall be distributed by
 193 the county to each taxing entity in which the property described in Subsection (2) is
 194 located in the same proportion in which revenue collected from ad valorem real
 195 property tax is distributed.

196 (b) Each taxing entity shall distribute the revenues received under Subsection (5)(a) in
 197 the same proportion in which revenue collected from ad valorem real property tax is
 198 distributed.

199 (6)(a) If the owner of a vehicle subject to the uniform fee in lieu of the ad valorem tax
200 described in this section cancels the registration of the vehicle and is eligible for a
201 refund of fees as described in Section 41-1a-209, the owner is entitled to a refund of
202 the uniform fee in lieu of the ad valorem tax paid under this section for the portion of
203 the year remaining since the date the uniform fee in lieu of the ad valorem tax was
204 paid.

205 (b) The division shall refund the uniform fee in lieu of the ad valorem tax on a pro rata
206 monthly basis for any whole month remaining in the registration period after the date
207 of the cancellation.

208 (c) The commission may account for the costs to administer a refund as described in this
209 Subsection (6) by withholding from the refund as described in Subsection
210 41-1a-209(4)(c).

211 (d) If the amount of a refund under this section, when added to the refund amount
212 described in Section 41-1a-209, does not exceed \$40, the vehicle owner is not
213 eligible for a refund.

214 **Section 5. Effective Date.**

215 This bill takes effect on January 1, 2027.