



Bill Summary: H.B. 283

Vehicle Registration Amendments

Prepared For: Rep. Hall | Policy Analyst: Rachel Brooks | February 8, 2024

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Summary

This bill removes the requirement to display a registration decal for most vehicles and creates a monthly vehicle registration option.

Background

Utah primarily offers an annual registration option for most vehicles, meaning an individual pays for 12 months of registration in advance. A six-month registration option is available for passenger cars and motorcycles, though it costs approximately 75% of the annual registration fee amount.

In instances such as a car wreck, selling a vehicle, or moving out-of-state, an individual is unable to receive a refund for the registration fee, other fees, and taxes that were prepaid for the remainder of the registration period. This legislation creates a monthly registration option that allows individuals to register, and pay for the associated pro-rated taxes and fees, their vehicles on a monthly basis.

Upon initial registration of a vehicle, the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) typically issues a month decal and a year decal, with some variation among vehicle types. Upon registration renewal, the DMV issues a new year decal, and an individual maintains the original month decal. These decals are typically applied to the rear license plate to indicate that the vehicle registration is current.

Proposed Changes in this Bill

Monthly Registration

This bill creates a monthly vehicle registration option, which would allow individuals to pay on a monthly basis an amount that is a pro-rated amount of the annual vehicle registration fee, other fees, and property taxes. The registration will automatically renew monthly until canceled.

To participate in this option, individuals must:

- pay online using bank account information (ACH transfer);
- register for electronic notification of registration renewal (instead of a mailed postcard); and
- provide proof of emissions inspection within the last 12 months, if applicable.

Registration Decals

Registration decals will no longer be issued upon initial registration or renewal for most vehicles, including all light-duty passenger vehicles, on highway motorcycles, and trailers. The classes of vehicles that will still be issued registration stickers or license plate decals are:

- Motorboats and sailboats (no license plate; registration sticker is the only identifier)
- Park model recreational vehicles (no license plate; registration sticker is the only identifier)
- Off Highway Vehicles (DNR Law Enforcement is unable to search license plate numbers for registration data in remote locations)