

IMPORTANT MOTOR VEHICLE AND DRIVER LICENSING CHANGES FROM 2020 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The following legislative changes affect the Missouri Department of Revenue's motor vehicle and driver licensing processes and are effective August 28, 2020, with one exception noted below.

Titling of Unclaimed Property (HB 1963)

This provision allows for salvage pools and used motor vehicle dealers to apply for a salvage title or junking certificate when a vehicle is left unclaimed on their property for more than 45 days when an insurer does not purchase the vehicle through the claims adjustment process. Notification must be made to the last known owner or lienholder of record 45 days prior to applying for title.

This provision also allows an insurer to apply for and obtain a title on a vessel or watercraft when a title is not available during the claims adjustment process.

Weight Restriction Removal for Association of Missouri Electric Coop Specialty License Plates (HB 1963)

This provision allows vehicles in the Missouri Electric Cooperative fleet that are registered over 24,000 pounds to obtain a Missouri Electric Cooperative specialty license plate for these vehicles that normally would not qualify. Currently, motor vehicles registered at 24,000 pounds or above do not qualify for personalized or specialty license plates.

Transfer of Motor Vehicle Titles by Dealers Licensed in Missouri (HB 1963)

This provision allows motor vehicle dealers licensed in Missouri to sell vehicles in situations when they do not have possession of the physical title yet, so long as such title is provided within 30 days after delivery of the vehicle. Purchasers will have 30 days from the date the title is transferred to obtain title in their name and pay necessary tax.

To accommodate purchasers who purchase a vehicle from a Missouri dealer without a title in hand, a 60-day temporary tag may be issued to the purchaser. Currently, temporary tags only last 30 days from the purchase date, unless Section 301.213, RSMo, applies.

Registered Fleet Owners License Plate Fee Prorata (HB 1963)

This provision allows registered fleet owner applicants to pay license plate registration fees that are prorated by month. Currently, registered fleet owners must pay full registration fees, regardless of the month in which application for fleet registration is made.

Lease Rental Company Bond Removal (HB 1963)

This provision removes the requirement that a lease rental company, other than lease rental companies that apply to be registered fleet owners, obtain a surety bond in the amount of \$100,000 in order to be licensed with the Department of Revenue. This reverses the changes made in the previous legislative session that affected smaller lease rental companies who are currently required to provide a \$100,000 surety bond in order to be licensed with the Department of Revenue.

ATV/UTV Definition Change (HB 1963)

This provision revises the definition increasing the maximum width of all-terrain vehicles for off-highway use and increases the maximum width and weight of recreational off-highway vehicles.

Medical Alert Notation on Driver Licenses (HB 1963)

This provision authorizes Missouri citizens to add a medical alert designation on their driver license or nondriver license identification card that will alert law enforcement or first responders of their medical condition.

NOTE: The implementation date for this provision is July 31, 2021.

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Motor Vehicle Insurance Reporting (HB 1963)

This provision requires all insurance companies with motor vehicle policies in Missouri to report a record of their insurance policies to the Department of Revenue at the duration set forth by the Department. This provision sets the framework for real-time motor vehicle insurance reporting, which will help the Department of Revenue and law enforcement identify uninsured motorists. The Department must first be able to update and integrate its motor vehicle and driver licensing systems.

Disability Accommodations for CDL Applicants (HB 1963)

This provision allows Missouri to waive the hearing test requirement and provide special accommodations to CDL applicants who have a disability, including applicants who are deaf or hard of hearing. If this change is ever found to be non-compliant with federal standards, it is null and void.

REAL ID Changes (HB 1963)

This provision allow for source documents to be retained in the same fashion as other documents and, with express consent of the applicant, allows the Department to retain source documents for a period greater than 10 years. Language requiring special limited access off-network storage of REAL ID source documents was removed.

Remote Driver License Renewal (HB 1963)

At this time, the Department is not pursuing this opportunity due to necessary system changes and funding limitations.

Facial Recognition (HB 1963)

At this time, the Department is not pursuing this opportunity.

Specialty License Plates — BackStoppers (HB 1963)

This provision authorizes the Department of Revenue to issue BackStoppers specialty license plates to applicants to use on any vehicle that is registered under 24,000 pounds with the presentation of an “emblem use authorization” form, which can be obtained by making a one-time \$10 donation to the BackStoppers organization, or the contribution can be made directly with the Department of Revenue.

Specialty License Plates — Central Honor Flight (HB 1963 & SB 656)

This provision authorizes Missouri residents to apply for specialty Central Missouri Honor Flight license plates with the payment of a \$25 “emblem use authorization” fee to Central Missouri Honor Flight. The emblem may be affixed on multi-year personalized license plates for any vehicle the person owns other than commercial vehicles weighing over 24,000 pounds.

Specialty License Plates — Meritorious Service Medal (HB 1963 & SB 656)

This provision authorizes the Department to issue specialty license plates bearing the words “Meritorious Service” in place of “Show-Me State” for individuals who have received the military service award known as the Meritorious Service Medal to use on any vehicle that is registered under 24,000 pounds.

Purple Heart Specialty License Plate Fees (SB 656)

This provisions adds language that no fee shall be charged by the Department of Revenue for the first set of license plates issued to an eligible person under this section. A second or subsequent set of plates issued to the eligible person under this section shall be subject to regular registration fees, including processing fees, but not to any fee in addition to regular registration fees.

This provision also adds language that, in the event of the death of the qualified recipient, any registered co-owner of the motor vehicle shall be entitled to use and renew the license plates until he or she remarries, or if he or she does not remarry, for the remainder of his or her life.