

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to motor vehicle, mobile home, and vessel
3 registration; amending s. 320.01, F.S.; redefining the
4 term "registration period"; defining the term "extended
5 registration period"; amending s. 320.055, F.S.;
6 establishing an extended registration period and renewal
7 period for certain motor vehicles and mobile homes;
8 amending s. 320.06, F.S.; extending the time period and
9 revising the fee for replacement of registration license
10 plates; extending the period of validity of license plates
11 and validation stickers to provide for an extended
12 registration period; amending s. 320.07, F.S.; providing
13 for the semiannual, annual, or biennial renewal of motor
14 vehicle and mobile home registrations; authorizing the
15 biennial renewal of certain motor vehicle and mobile home
16 registrations upon payment of the cumulative total of
17 license taxes, service charges, surcharges, and other
18 fees; amending s. 320.071, F.S.; specifying that the
19 registration period for a motor vehicle or mobile home may
20 not exceed a specified number of months; creating s.
21 320.203, F.S.; providing for the disposition of biennial
22 registration revenues; amending s. 328.72, F.S.; providing
23 for an extended registration period for certain vessel
24 owners; providing an effective date.

25
26 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

27
28 Section 1. Subsection (19) of section 320.01, Florida

29 Statutes, is amended to read:

30 320.01 Definitions, general.--As used in the Florida
 31 Statutes, except as otherwise provided, the term:

32 (19) (a) "Registration period" means a period of 12 months
 33 or 24 months during which a motor vehicle or mobile home
 34 registration is valid.

35 (b) "Extended registration period" means a period of 24
 36 months during which a motor vehicle or mobile home registration
 37 is valid.

38 Section 2. Subsection (1) of section 320.055, Florida
 39 Statutes, is amended to read:

40 320.055 Registration periods; renewal periods.--The
 41 following registration periods and renewal periods are
 42 established:

43 (1) (a) For a motor vehicle subject to registration under
 44 s. 320.08(1), (2), (3), (5) (b), (c), (d), or (f), (6) (a), (7),
 45 (8), (9), or (10) and owned by a natural person, the
 46 registration period begins the first day of the birth month of
 47 the owner and ends the last day of the month immediately
 48 preceding the owner's birth month in the succeeding year. If
 49 such vehicle is registered in the name of more than one person,
 50 the birth month of the person whose name first appears on the
 51 registration shall be used to determine the registration period.
 52 For a vehicle subject to this registration period, the renewal
 53 period is the 30-day period ending at midnight on the vehicle
 54 owner's date of birth.

55 (b) A motor vehicle or mobile home that is subject to
 56 registration under s. 320.08(1), (2), (3), (4) (a) or (b), (6),

57 (7), (8), (9), (10), or (11) is eligible for an extended
 58 registration period as defined in s. 320.01(19)(b).

59 ~~(c)-(b)~~ Notwithstanding the requirements of paragraph (a),
 60 the owner of a motor vehicle subject to paragraph (a) who has
 61 had his or her driver's license suspended pursuant to a
 62 violation of s. 316.193 or pursuant to s. 322.26(2) for driving
 63 under the influence must obtain a 6-month registration as a
 64 condition of reinstating the license, subject to renewal during
 65 the 3-year period that financial responsibility requirements
 66 apply. The registration period begins the first day of the birth
 67 month of the owner and ends the last day of the fifth month
 68 immediately following the owner's birth month. For such
 69 vehicles, the department shall issue a vehicle registration
 70 certificate that is valid for 6 months and shall issue a
 71 validation sticker that displays an expiration date of 6 months
 72 after the date of issuance. The license tax required by s.
 73 320.08 and all other applicable license taxes shall be one-half
 74 of the amount otherwise required, except the service charge
 75 required by s. 320.04 shall be paid in full for each 6-month
 76 registration. A vehicle required to be registered under this
 77 paragraph is not eligible for the extended registration period
 78 under paragraph (b).

79 Section 3. Paragraphs (b) and (c) of subsection (1) of
 80 section 320.06, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

81 320.06 Registration certificates, license plates, and
 82 validation stickers generally.--

83 (1)

84 (b) Registration license plates bearing a graphic symbol

85 and the alphanumeric system of identification shall be issued
 86 for a 6-year ~~5-year~~ period. At the end of that 6-year ~~said 5-~~
 87 ~~year~~ period, upon renewal, the plate shall be replaced. The fee
 88 for such replacement is \$12 ~~shall be \$10~~, \$2 of which shall be
 89 paid each year before the plate is replaced, to be credited
 90 towards the next \$12 ~~\$10~~ replacement fee. The fees shall be
 91 deposited into the Highway Safety Operating Trust Fund. A credit
 92 or refund shall not be given for any prior years' payments of
 93 such prorated replacement fee if ~~when~~ the plate is replaced or
 94 surrendered before the end of the 6-year ~~5-year~~ period, except
 95 that a credit may be given when a registrant is required by the
 96 department to replace a license plate under s. 320.08056(8)(a).
 97 With each license plate, there shall be issued a validation
 98 sticker showing the owner's birth month, license plate number,
 99 and the year of expiration or the appropriate renewal period if
 100 the owner is not a natural person. The validation sticker shall
 101 ~~is to~~ be placed on the upper right corner of the license plate.
 102 Such license plate and validation sticker shall be issued based
 103 on the applicant's appropriate renewal period. The registration
 104 period is shall be a period of 12 months, the extended
 105 registration period is a period of 24 months, and all
 106 expirations shall occur based on the applicant's appropriate
 107 registration period. A vehicle with an apportioned registration
 108 shall be issued an annual license plate and a cab card that
 109 denote the declared gross vehicle weight for each apportioned
 110 jurisdiction in which the vehicle is authorized to operate.
 111 (c) Registration license plates equipped with validation
 112 stickers subject to the registration period ~~shall be~~ valid

113 for not more than 12 months and ~~shall~~ expire at midnight on the
114 last day of the registration period. A registration license
115 plate equipped with a validation sticker subject to the extended
116 registration period is valid for not more than 24 months and
117 expires at midnight on the last day of the extended registration
118 period. For each registration period after the one in which the
119 metal registration license plate is issued, and until the
120 license plate is required to be replaced, a validation sticker
121 showing the month and year of expiration shall be issued upon
122 payment of the proper license tax amount and fees and is shall
123 be valid for not more than 12 months. For each extended
124 registration period occurring after the one in which the metal
125 registration license plate is issued and until the license plate
126 is required to be replaced, a validation sticker showing the
127 year of expiration shall be issued upon payment of the proper
128 license tax amount and fees and is valid for not more than 24
129 months. When license plates equipped with validation stickers
130 are issued in any month other than the owner's birth month or
131 the designated registration period for any other motor vehicle,
132 the effective date shall reflect the birth month or month and
133 the year of renewal. However, when a license plate or validation
134 sticker is issued for a period of less than 12 months, the
135 applicant shall pay the appropriate amount of license tax and
136 the applicable fee under ~~the provisions of~~ s. 320.14 in addition
137 to all other fees. Validation stickers issued for vehicles taxed
138 under ~~the provisions of~~ s. 320.08(6)(a), for any company that
139 ~~which~~ owns 250 vehicles or more, or for semitrailers taxed under
140 the provisions of s. 320.08(5)(a), for any company that ~~which~~

141 owns 50 vehicles or more, may be placed on any vehicle in the
 142 fleet so long as the vehicle receiving the validation sticker
 143 has the same owner's name and address as the vehicle to which
 144 the validation sticker was originally assigned.

145 Section 4. Section 320.07, Florida Statutes, is amended to
 146 read:

147 320.07 Expiration of registration; ~~annual~~ renewal
 148 required; penalties.--

149 (1) The registration of a motor vehicle or mobile home
 150 expires ~~shall expire~~ at midnight on the last day of the
 151 registration or extended registration period. A vehicle shall
 152 not be operated on the roads of this state after expiration of
 153 the renewal period unless the registration has been renewed
 154 according to law.

155 (2) Registration shall be renewed semiannually, annually,
 156 or biennially, as provided in this subsection, during the
 157 applicable renewal period, upon payment of the applicable
 158 license tax amounts ~~amount~~ required by s. 320.08, service
 159 charges required by s. 320.04, and any additional fees required
 160 by law.

161 (a) ~~However,~~ Any person who owns ~~owning~~ a motor vehicle
 162 registered under s. 320.08(4), (6)(b), or (13) may register
 163 semiannually as provided in s. 320.0705.

164 (b) Any person who owns a motor vehicle or mobile home
 165 registered under s. 320.08(1), (2), (3), (4)(a) or (b), (6),
 166 (7), (8), (9), (10), or (11) may renew the vehicle registration
 167 biennially during the applicable renewal period upon payment of
 168 the 2-year cumulative total of all applicable license tax

169 amounts required by s. 320.08 and service charges or surcharges
 170 required by ss. 320.03, 320.04, 320.0801, 320.08015, 320.0802,
 171 320.0804, 320.0805, 320.08046, and 320.08056 and payment of the
 172 2-year cumulative total of any additional fees required by law
 173 for an annual registration.

174 (3) The operation of any motor vehicle without having
 175 attached thereto a registration license plate and validation
 176 stickers, or the use of any mobile home without having attached
 177 thereto a mobile home sticker, for the current registration
 178 period shall subject the owner thereof, if he or she is present,
 179 or, if the owner is not present, the operator thereof to the
 180 following penalty provisions:

181 (a) Any person whose motor vehicle or mobile home
 182 registration has been expired for a period of 6 months or less
 183 commits a noncriminal traffic infraction, punishable as a
 184 nonmoving violation as provided in chapter 318.

185 (b) Any person whose motor vehicle or mobile home
 186 registration has been expired for more than 6 months, ~~shall~~ upon
 187 a first offense, is ~~be~~ subject to the penalty provided in s.
 188 318.14.

189 (c) Any person whose motor vehicle or mobile home
 190 registration has been expired for more than 6 months, ~~shall~~ upon
 191 a second or subsequent offense, commits ~~be guilty of~~ a
 192 misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as provided in s.
 193 775.082 or s. 775.083.

194 (d) However, an ~~no~~ operator shall not be charged with a
 195 violation of this subsection if the operator can show, pursuant
 196 to a valid lease agreement, that the vehicle had been leased for

197 a period of 30 days or less at the time of the offense.

198 (e) Any servicemember, as defined in s. 250.01, whose
 199 mobile home registration ~~has~~ expired while he or she was serving
 200 on active duty or state active duty shall not be charged with a
 201 violation of this subsection if, at the time of the offense, the
 202 servicemember was serving on active duty or state active duty 35
 203 miles or more from the mobile home. The servicemember must
 204 present to the department either a copy of the official military
 205 orders or a written verification signed by the servicemember's
 206 commanding officer to receive a waiver of waive charges.

207 (f) The owner of a leased motor vehicle is not responsible
 208 for any penalty specified in this subsection if the motor
 209 vehicle is registered in the name of the lessee of the motor
 210 vehicle.

211 (4)(a) In addition to a penalty provided in subsection
 212 (3), a delinquent fee based on the following schedule of license
 213 taxes shall be imposed on any applicant who fails to renew a
 214 registration prior to the end of the month in which renewal
 215 registration is due. The delinquent fee shall be applied
 216 beginning on the 11th calendar day of the month succeeding the
 217 renewal period. The delinquent fee does ~~shall~~ not apply to those
 218 vehicles that ~~which~~ have not been required to be registered
 219 during the preceding registration period or as provided in s.
 220 320.18(2). The delinquent fee shall be imposed as follows:

- 221 1. License tax of \$5 but not more than \$25: \$5 flat.
- 222 2. License tax over \$25 but not more than \$50: \$10 flat.
- 223 3. License tax over \$50 but not more than \$100: \$15 flat.
- 224 4. License tax over \$100 but not more than \$400: \$50

225 flat.

226 5. License tax over \$400 but not more than \$600: \$100
227 flat.

228 6. License tax over \$600 and up: \$250 flat.

229 (b) A person who has been assessed a penalty pursuant to
230 s. 316.545(2) (b) for failure to have a valid vehicle
231 registration certificate is not subject to the delinquent fee
232 authorized by this subsection if such person obtains a valid
233 registration certificate within 10 working days after such
234 penalty was assessed. The official receipt authorized by s.
235 316.545(6) constitutes proof of payment of the penalty
236 authorized in s. 316.545(2) (b).

237 (c) The owner of a leased motor vehicle is not responsible
238 for any delinquent fee specified in this subsection if the motor
239 vehicle is registered in the name of the lessee of the motor
240 vehicle.

241 (5) Any servicemember, as defined in s. 250.01, whose
242 motor vehicle or mobile home registration has expired while he
243 or she was serving on active duty or state active duty may
244 ~~shall be able to~~ renew his or her registration upon return from
245 active duty or state active duty without penalty, if the
246 servicemember served on active duty or state active duty 35
247 miles or more from the servicemember's home of record prior to
248 entering active duty or state active duty. The servicemember
249 must provide to the department either a copy of the official
250 military orders or a written verification signed by the
251 servicemember's commanding officer to receive a waiver of ~~waive~~
252 delinquent fees.

253 (6) Delinquent fees imposed under this section are ~~shall~~
 254 not ~~be~~ apportionable under the International Registration Plan.

255 Section 5. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section
 256 320.071, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

257 320.071 Advance registration renewal; procedures.--

258 (1) (a) The owner of any motor vehicle or mobile home
 259 currently registered in this state may file an application for
 260 renewal of registration with the department, or its authorized
 261 agent in the county wherein the owner resides, any time during
 262 the 3 months preceding the date of expiration of the
 263 registration period. The registration period may not exceed 27
 264 months.

265 Section 6. Section 320.203, Florida Statutes, is created
 266 to read:

267 320.203 Disposition of biennial license tax moneys.--

268 (1) Notwithstanding ss. 320.08(1), (2), (3), (4) (a) or
 269 (b), (6), (7), (8), (9), (10), or (11), 320.08058, and 328.76
 270 and pursuant to s. 216.351, after the provisions of s.
 271 320.20(1), (2), (3), and (4) are fulfilled, an amount equal to
 272 50 percent of revenues collected from the biennial registrations
 273 created in s. 320.07 shall be retained in the Motor Vehicle
 274 License Clearing Trust Fund, authorized in s. 215.32(2)(b)2.f.,
 275 until July 1 of the following fiscal year and then accounted for
 276 as revenue for that fiscal year derived from use fees, vessel
 277 registrations, and the licensing of motor vehicles.

278 (2) A tax collector may escrow an amount necessary to
 279 annualize revenues collected from the biennial registration
 280 service charges, branch charges, or tax collector fees created

281 in s. 320.07 until October 1 of the following fiscal year and
 282 then account for that amount as revenue for that fiscal year.

283 Section 7. Subsections (1), (3), (9), and (12) of section
 284 328.72, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

285 328.72 Classification; registration; fees and charges;
 286 surcharge; disposition of fees; fines; marine turtle stickers.--

287 (1) VESSEL REGISTRATION FEE.--Vessels that are required to
 288 be registered shall be classified for registration purposes
 289 according to the following schedule, and the registration
 290 certificate fee shall be in the following amounts:

291 Class A-1--Less than 12 feet in length, and all canoes to
 292 which propulsion motors have been attached, regardless of
 293 length....\$3.50 for each 12-month period registered.

294 Class A-2--12 feet or more and less than 16 feet in
 295 length....10.50 for each 12-month period registered.
 296 (To county)....2.85 for each 12-month period registered.

297 Class 1--16 feet or more and less than 26 feet in
 298 length....18.50 for each 12-month period registered.
 299 (To county)....8.85 for each 12-month period registered.

300 Class 2--26 feet or more and less than 40 feet in
 301 length....50.50 for each 12-month period registered.
 302 (To county)....32.85 for each 12-month period registered.

303 Class 3--40 feet or more and less than 65 feet in
 304 length....82.50 for each 12-month period registered.
 305 (To county)....56.85 for each 12-month period registered.

306 Class 4--65 feet or more and less than 110 feet in
 307 length....98.50 for each 12-month period registered.
 308 (To county)....68.85 for each 12-month period registered.

309 Class 5--110 feet or more in length....122.50 for each 12-
 310 month period registered.

311 (To county)....86.85 for each 12-month period registered.

312 Dealer registration certificate16.50 for each 12-month
 313 period registered.

314

315 The county portion of the vessel registration fee is derived
 316 from recreational vessels only.

317 (3) ALIEN OR NONRESIDENT LICENSE FEE.--An additional
 318 license fee of \$50 for each 12-month period registered shall be
 319 required of all aliens or nonresidents of the state on all
 320 vessels not subject to a specific reciprocal agreement with
 321 another state, which vessels are used for commercial purposes
 322 and owned in whole or in part by such aliens or nonresidents.
 323 Such fee shall be in addition to the vessel registration fee
 324 required by this section.

325 (9) SURCHARGE.--In addition, there is hereby levied and
 326 imposed on each vessel registration fee imposed under subsection
 327 (1) a surcharge in the amount of \$1 for each 12-month period of
 328 registration, which shall be collected in the same manner as the
 329 fee and deposited into the State Agency Law Enforcement Radio
 330 System Trust Fund of the Department of Management Services.

331 (12) REGISTRATION.--

332 (a) "Registration period" is a period of 12 months during
 333 which a vessel registration is valid.

334 (b) Any vessel owner who is subject to registration under
 335 subparagraph (c)1. is eligible for an extended registration
 336 period that begins the first day of the birth month of the owner

337 and ends the last day of the month immediately preceding the
338 owner's birth month 24 months after the beginning of the
339 registration period. If the vessel is registered in the name of
340 more than one person, the birth month of the person whose name
341 first appears on the registration shall be used to determine the
342 extended registration period. For a vessel subject to this
343 extended registration period, the renewal period is the 30-day
344 period ending at midnight on the vessel owner's date of birth.
345 ~~"Renewal period" is a period of 30 days during which renewal of~~
346 ~~a vessel registration is required, except as otherwise provided~~
347 ~~by law.~~

348 (c) The following registration periods and renewal periods
349 are established:

350 1. For vessels owned by individuals, the registration
351 period begins the first day of the birth month of the owner and
352 ends the last day of the month immediately preceding the owner's
353 birth month in the succeeding year. If the vessel is registered
354 in the name of more than one person, the birth month of the
355 person whose name first appears on the registration shall be
356 used to determine the registration period. For a vessel subject
357 to this registration period, the renewal period is the 30-day
358 period ending at midnight on the vessel owner's date of birth.

359 2. For vessels owned by companies, corporations,
360 governmental entities, and registrations issued to dealers and
361 manufacturers, the registration period begins July 1 and ends
362 June 30. The renewal period is the 30-day period beginning June
363 1.

364 Section 8. This act shall take effect January 1, 2008.