

1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to registration and titling of  
3           vehicles and vessels; amending s. 320.055, F.S.;  
4           revising registration periods for certain vehicles;  
5           requiring the Department of Highway Safety and Motor  
6           Vehicles to develop methodology to prorate  
7           registration renewals for customers and implement  
8           changes made by the act; providing a limitation;  
9           amending s. 320.0609, F.S.; authorizing a surviving  
10          spouse of a motor vehicle owner to present certain  
11          death records when requesting a registration  
12          certificate and license plate transfer; amending ss.  
13          320.07 and 320.0705, F.S.; conforming provisions to  
14          changes made by the act; amending s. 328.01, F.S.;  
15          authorizing a new owner or surviving coowner of a  
16          vessel to submit certain death records when applying  
17          for transfer of title; providing effective dates.

18  
19 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:  
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21           Section 1. Effective September 1, 2020, paragraph (a) of  
22           subsection (1) and subsection (5) of section 320.055, Florida  
23           Statutes, are amended to read:

24           320.055 Registration periods; renewal periods.—The  
25           following registration periods and renewal periods are

26 | established:

27 |       (1) (a) For a motor vehicle subject to registration under  
 28 | s. 320.08(1), (2), (3), (4) (a) or (b), (5) (b), (c), (d), or (f),  
 29 | (6) (a), (7), (8), (9), or (10) and owned by a natural person,  
 30 | the registration period begins the first day of the birth month  
 31 | of the owner and ends the last day of the month immediately  
 32 | preceding the owner's birth month in the succeeding year. If  
 33 | such vehicle is registered in the name of more than one person,  
 34 | the birth month of the person whose name first appears on the  
 35 | registration shall be used to determine the registration period.  
 36 | For a vehicle subject to this registration period, the renewal  
 37 | period is the 30-day period ending at midnight on the vehicle  
 38 | owner's date of birth.

39 |       (5) For a vehicle subject to apportioned registration  
 40 | under s. 320.08(4) (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), (h), (i), (j), (k),  
 41 | (l), (m), or (n) ~~s. 320.08(4)~~, (5) (a)1. or (e), (6) (b), or  
 42 | (14), the registration period shall be a period of 12 months  
 43 | beginning in a month designated by the department and ending on  
 44 | the last day of the 12th month. For a vehicle subject to this  
 45 | registration period, the renewal period is the last month of the  
 46 | registration period. The registration period may be shortened or  
 47 | extended at the discretion of the department, on receipt of the  
 48 | appropriate prorated fees, in order to evenly distribute such  
 49 | registrations on a monthly basis. For a vehicle subject to  
 50 | nonapportioned registration under s. 320.08(4) (c), (d), (e),

51 (f), (g), (h), (i), (j), (k), (l), (m), or (n) s. 320.08(4),  
52 (5) (a)1., (6) (b), or (14), the registration period begins  
53 December 1 and ends November 30. The renewal period is the 31-  
54 day period beginning December 1.

55 Section 2. Beginning September 1, 2020, in order to  
56 implement the changes made by this act to s. 320.055, Florida  
57 Statutes, the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles  
58 shall develop methodology to prorate motor vehicle registration  
59 renewal fees. The methodology shall give customers the option to  
60 renew their registrations on their dates of birth in 2021 or  
61 2022. Customers whose dates of birth occur in the months of  
62 January through June may choose to renew for 1 to 18 months.  
63 Customers whose dates of birth occur in the months of July  
64 through December may choose to renew for 7 to 24 months.  
65 Proration is limited to the renewal of an unexpired registration  
66 or a registration that has been expired for no more than 30  
67 days.

68 Section 3. Subsection (7) of section 320.0609, Florida  
69 Statutes, is amended to read:

70 320.0609 Transfer and exchange of registration license  
71 plates; transfer fee.—

72 (7) A surviving spouse of a registered owner of any motor  
73 vehicle may, upon presenting the death certificate or electronic  
74 file of death records maintained by the Department of Health,  
75 request a registration certificate and transfer of the

76 registration license plate.

77 Section 4. Effective September 1, 2020, paragraph (a) of  
 78 subsection (2) of section 320.07, Florida Statutes, is amended  
 79 to read:

80 320.07 Expiration of registration; renewal required;  
 81 penalties.—

82 (2) Registration shall be renewed semiannually, annually,  
 83 or biennially, as provided in this subsection, during the  
 84 applicable renewal period, upon payment of the applicable  
 85 license tax amounts required by s. 320.08, service charges  
 86 required by s. 320.04, and any additional fees required by law.

87 (a) Any person who owns a motor vehicle registered under  
 88 s. 320.08(4)(c), (d), (e), (f), (g), (h), (i), (j), (k), (l),  
 89 (m), or (n) ~~s. 320.08(4)~~, (6)(b), or (13) may register  
 90 semiannually as provided in s. 320.0705.

91 Section 5. Effective September 1, 2020, subsection (1) of  
 92 section 320.0705, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

93 320.0705 Semiannual registration or renewal for certain  
 94 vehicles.—

95 (1) The owner of a motor vehicle taxed under s.  
 96 320.08(4)(c), (d), (e), (f), (g), (h), (i), (j), (k), (l), (m),  
 97 or (n) ~~s. 320.08(4)~~ or (6)(b) may register his or her vehicle  
 98 semiannually, if the amount of license tax due annually is more  
 99 than \$100 and the vehicle registration fee is not required to be  
 100 apportioned, upon payment of a fee of \$2.50 for each semiannual

101 registration.

102 Section 6. Paragraph (c) of subsection (3) of section  
103 328.01, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

104 328.01 Application for certificate of title.—

105 (3)

106 (c) In making application for transfer of title from a  
107 deceased titled owner, the new owner or surviving coowner shall  
108 establish proof of ownership by submitting with the application  
109 the original certificate of title and the decedent's probated  
110 last will and testament or letters of administration appointing  
111 the personal representative of the decedent. In lieu of a  
112 probated last will and testament or letters of administration, a  
113 copy of the decedent's death certificate or electronic file of  
114 death records maintained by the Department of Health, a copy of  
115 the decedent's last will and testament, and an affidavit by the  
116 decedent's surviving spouse or heirs affirming rights of  
117 ownership may be accepted by the department. If the decedent  
118 died intestate, a court order awarding the ownership of the  
119 vessel or an affidavit by the decedent's surviving spouse or  
120 heirs establishing or releasing all rights of ownership and a  
121 copy of the decedent's death certificate shall be submitted to  
122 the department.

123 Section 7. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this  
124 act, this act shall take effect July 1, 2019.