

HOUSE BILL NO. 202

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A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT PROVIDING FOR AN OPTIONAL DONATION TO DRINKING AND  
DRIVING PREVENTION PROGRAMS WHEN REGISTERING A MOTOR VEHICLE; AMENDING SECTION  
61-3-303, MCA; AND PROVIDING A DELAYED EFFECTIVE DATE."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

**NEW SECTION. Section 1. Account for drinking and driving prevention -- source of funds -- use.**

(1) There is an account in the state special revenue fund to be used by the department for funding statewide  
drinking and driving prevention programs or county drinking and driving prevention programs established under  
61-2-106.

(2) The department of justice shall deposit the revenue collected under 61-3-303(5)(d) in the account.

**Section 2.** Section 61-3-303, MCA, is amended to read:

**"61-3-303. Original registration -- process -- fees.** (1) Except as provided in 61-3-324, a Montana  
resident who owns a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer operated or driven ~~upon~~ on the public  
highways of this state shall register the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer in the county where the  
owner is domiciled. A nonresident who has an interest in real property in Montana may register in the county  
where the real property is located a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer operated or driven ~~upon~~ on  
the public highways of this state.

(2) Except as provided in subsection (3), the county treasurer or an authorized agent shall register any  
vehicle for which:

(a) as of the date that the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer is to be registered, the owner  
delivers an application for a certificate of title to the department, an authorized agent, or a county treasurer; or

(b) the county treasurer or an authorized agent confirms that the department has an electronic record  
of title for the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer as provided under 61-3-101.

(3) (a) A county treasurer or an authorized agent may register a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole



1 trailer for which a certificate of title and registration were issued in another jurisdiction and for which registration  
2 is required under 61-3-701 after the county treasurer or the authorized agent examines the current  
3 out-of-jurisdiction registration certificate or receipt and receives payment of the fees required in 61-3-701. The  
4 county treasurer or an authorized agent may ask the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer owner to  
5 provide additional information, prescribed by the department, to ensure that the electronic record of registration  
6 maintained by the department is complete.

7 (b) A county treasurer or an authorized agent may register a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole  
8 trailer for which the new owner cannot, due to circumstances beyond the new owner's control, surrender a  
9 previously assigned certificate of title. The new owner may submit an application for certificate of title, subject to  
10 the registration renewal limitations of 61-3-312.

11 (4) Upon registering a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer for the first time in this state, the  
12 county treasurer or an authorized agent shall:

13 (a) update the electronic record of title, if any, maintained for the vehicle by the department under  
14 61-3-101;

15 (b) assign a registration period for the vehicle under 61-3-311;

16 (c) determine the vehicle's age, if required, under 61-3-501;

17 (d) determine the amount of fees, including local option taxes or fees, to be paid under subsection (5);

18 and

19 (e) assign and issue license plates for the vehicle under 61-3-331.

20 (5) Unless otherwise provided by law, a person registering a motor vehicle shall pay to the county  
21 treasurer or an authorized agent:

22 (a) the fees in lieu of tax or registration fees as required for:

23 (i) a light vehicle under 61-3-321 or 61-3-562, in addition to, if applicable, any local option tax or fee  
24 under 61-3-537 or 61-3-570;

25 (ii) a motor home under 61-3-321;

26 (iii) a travel trailer under 61-3-321;

27 (iv) a motorcycle or quadricycle under 61-3-321;

28 (v) a bus, a truck having a manufacturer's rated capacity of more than 1 ton, or a truck tractor under  
29 61-3-321 and 61-3-529; or

30 (vi) a trailer under 61-3-321;

1 (b) a donation of \$1 or more if the person indicates that the person wishes to donate to promote  
2 awareness and education efforts for procurement of organ and tissue donations in Montana to favorably impact  
3 anatomical gifts; ~~and~~

4 (c) a donation of \$1 or more if the person indicates that the person wishes to donate to promote  
5 education on, support for, and awareness of traumatic brain injury; and

6 (d) a donation of \$1 or more if the person indicates that the person wishes to donate to drinking and  
7 driving prevention programs.

8 (6) The county treasurer or an authorized agent may not issue a registration receipt or license plates for  
9 the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer to the owner unless the owner makes the payments required  
10 by subsection (5).

11 (7) The department may make full and complete investigation of the registration status of the motor  
12 vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer. A person seeking to register a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole  
13 trailer under this section shall provide additional information to support the registration to the department if  
14 requested.

15 (8) Revenue that accrues from the voluntary donation provided in subsection (5)(b) must be forwarded  
16 by the respective county treasurer or an authorized agent to the department for deposit in the state special  
17 revenue fund to the credit of an account established by the department of public health and human services to  
18 support activities related to awareness and education efforts for procurement of organ and tissue donations for  
19 anatomical gifts.

20 (9) (a) Except as provided in subsection (9)(b), the fees in lieu of tax, taxes, and fees imposed on or  
21 collected from the registration of a travel trailer, motorcycle, or quadricycle or a trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer  
22 that has a declared weight of less than 26,000 pounds are required to be paid only once during the time that the  
23 travel trailer, motorcycle, quadricycle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer is owned by the same person who  
24 registered the travel trailer, motorcycle, quadricycle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer. Once registered, a travel  
25 trailer, motorcycle, quadricycle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer is registered permanently unless ownership is  
26 transferred.

27 (b) Whenever ownership of a travel trailer, motorcycle, quadricycle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer is  
28 transferred, the new owner is required to register the travel trailer, motorcycle, quadricycle, trailer, semitrailer,  
29 or pole trailer as if it were being registered for the first time, including paying all of the required fees in lieu of tax,  
30 taxes, and fees.

