

A bill for an act

relating to motor vehicles; exempting certain disaster response vehicles from registration tax and fees; amending Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 168.012, subdivision 1.

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

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 168.012, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

Subdivision 1. **Vehicles exempt from tax, fees, or plate display.** (a) The following vehicles are exempt from the provisions of this chapter requiring payment of tax and registration fees, except as provided in subdivision 1c:

(1) vehicles owned and used solely in the transaction of official business by the federal government, the state, or any political subdivision;

(2) vehicles owned and used exclusively by educational institutions and used solely in the transportation of pupils to and from those institutions;

(3) vehicles used solely in driver education programs at nonpublic high schools;

(4) vehicles owned by nonprofit charities and used exclusively to transport disabled persons for charitable, religious, or educational purposes;

(5) vehicles owned by nonprofit charities and used exclusively for disaster response and related activities;

~~(5)~~ (6) ambulances owned by ambulance services licensed under section 144E.10, the general appearance of which is unmistakable; and

~~(6)~~ (7) vehicles owned by a commercial driving school licensed under section 171.34, or an employee of a commercial driving school licensed under section 171.34, and the vehicle is used exclusively for driver education and training.

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(b) Vehicles owned by the federal government, municipal fire apparatuses including fire-suppression support vehicles, police patrols, and ambulances, the general appearance of which is unmistakable, are not required to register or display number plates.

(c) Unmarked vehicles used in general police work, liquor investigations, or arson investigations, and passenger automobiles, pickup trucks, and buses owned or operated by the Department of Corrections, must be registered and must display appropriate license number plates, furnished by the registrar at cost. Original and renewal applications for these license plates authorized for use in general police work and for use by the Department of Corrections must be accompanied by a certification signed by the appropriate chief of police if issued to a police vehicle, the appropriate sheriff if issued to a sheriff's vehicle, the commissioner of corrections if issued to a Department of Corrections vehicle, or the appropriate officer in charge if issued to a vehicle of any other law enforcement agency. The certification must be on a form prescribed by the commissioner and state that the vehicle will be used exclusively for a purpose authorized by this section.

(d) Unmarked vehicles used by the Departments of Revenue and Labor and Industry, fraud unit, in conducting seizures or criminal investigations must be registered and must display passenger vehicle classification license number plates, furnished at cost by the registrar. Original and renewal applications for these passenger vehicle license plates must be accompanied by a certification signed by the commissioner of revenue or the commissioner of labor and industry. The certification must be on a form prescribed by the commissioner and state that the vehicles will be used exclusively for the purposes authorized by this section.

(e) Unmarked vehicles used by the Division of Disease Prevention and Control of the Department of Health must be registered and must display passenger vehicle classification license number plates. These plates must be furnished at cost by the registrar. Original and renewal applications for these passenger vehicle license plates must be accompanied by a certification signed by the commissioner of health. The certification must be on a form prescribed by the commissioner and state that the vehicles will be used exclusively for the official duties of the Division of Disease Prevention and Control.

(f) Unmarked vehicles used by staff of the Gambling Control Board in gambling investigations and reviews must be registered and must display passenger vehicle classification license number plates. These plates must be furnished at cost by the registrar. Original and renewal applications for these passenger vehicle license plates must be accompanied by a certification signed by the board chair. The certification must be on a form prescribed by the commissioner and state that the vehicles will be used exclusively for the official duties of the Gambling Control Board.

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3.1 (g) All other motor vehicles must be registered and display tax-exempt number
3.2 plates, furnished by the registrar at cost, except as provided in subdivision 1c. All
3.3 vehicles required to display tax-exempt number plates must have the name of the state
3.4 department or political subdivision, nonpublic high school operating a driver education
3.5 program, or licensed commercial driving school, plainly displayed on both sides of the
3.6 vehicle; except that each state hospital and institution for persons who are mentally ill
3.7 and developmentally disabled may have one vehicle without the required identification
3.8 on the sides of the vehicle, and county social service agencies may have vehicles used
3.9 for child and vulnerable adult protective services without the required identification on
3.10 the sides of the vehicle. This identification must be in a color giving contrast with that
3.11 of the part of the vehicle on which it is placed and must endure throughout the term of
3.12 the registration. The identification must not be on a removable plate or placard and must
3.13 be kept clean and visible at all times; except that a removable plate or placard may be
3.14 utilized on vehicles leased or loaned to a political subdivision or to a nonpublic high
3.15 school driver education program.