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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-THIRD SESSION

H. F. No. 4850

03/11/2024

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The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Transportation Finance and Policy

1.1 A bill for an act

1.2 relating to motor vehicles; providing for license plates for certain small trailers;

1.3 making technical changes; amending Minnesota Statutes 2022, sections 168.013,

1.4 subdivision 1d; 168.12, subdivision 5; 169.79, subdivision 3a.

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

1.6 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 168.013, subdivision 1d, is amended to read:

1.7 Subd. 1d. **Trailer.** (a) On trailers registered at a gross vehicle weight of greater than

1.8 3,000 pounds, the annual tax is based on total gross weight and is 30 percent of the Minnesota

1.9 base rate prescribed in subdivision 1e, when the gross weight is 15,000 pounds or less, and

1.10 when the gross weight of a trailer is more than 15,000 pounds, the tax for the first eight

1.11 years of vehicle life is 100 percent of the tax imposed in the Minnesota base rate schedule,

1.12 and during the ninth and succeeding years of vehicle life the tax is 75 percent of the

1.13 Minnesota base rate prescribed by subdivision 1e. A trailer registered at a gross vehicle

1.14 weight greater than 3,000 pounds but no greater than 7,200 pounds may be taxed either: (1)

1.15 annually as provided in this paragraph; or (2) once every three years on the basis of total

1.16 gross weight and is 90 percent of the Minnesota base rate prescribed in subdivision 1e,

1.17 provided that the filing fee under section 168.33, subdivision 7, paragraph (a), is multiplied

1.18 by three, with funds collected by the commissioner allocated proportionally in the same

1.19 manner as provided in section 168.33, subdivision 7, paragraph (e).

1.20 (b) Farm trailers with a gross weight in excess of 10,000 pounds and as described in

1.21 section 168.002, subdivision 8, are taxed as farm trucks as prescribed in subdivision 1c.

1.22 (c) ~~Effective on and after July 1, 2001, trailers~~ The owner of a trailer registered at a gross

1.23 vehicle weight of 3,000 pounds or less ~~must display~~ may elect to obtain either (1) a permanent

2.1 registration sticker, or (2) a distinctive license plate. The owner may obtain a license plate
 2.2 regardless of prior issuance of a registration sticker. A registration sticker or license plate
 2.3 is subject to a fee in the amount specified under section 168.12, subdivision 5. The
 2.4 registration ~~on the license plate~~ is valid for the life of the trailer only if it remains registered
 2.5 at the same gross vehicle weight.

2.6 (d) Except as provided in paragraph (e), the onetime registration tax for trailers a trailer
 2.7 registered for the first time in Minnesota at a gross weight of 3,000 pounds or less is \$55.
 2.8 ~~For trailers registered in Minnesota before July 1, 2001, and for which:~~

2.9 ~~(1) registration is desired for the remaining life of the trailer, the registration tax is \$25;~~
 2.10 ~~or~~

2.11 ~~(2) permanent registration is not desired, the biennial registration tax is \$10 for the first~~
 2.12 ~~renewal if registration is renewed between and including July 1, 2001, and June 30, 2003.~~
 2.13 ~~These trailers must be issued permanent registration at the first renewal on or after July 1,~~
 2.14 ~~2003, and the registration tax is \$20.~~

2.15 (e) For trailers registered at a gross weight of 3,000 pounds or less before July 1, 2001,
 2.16 but not renewed until on or after July 1, 2003, the registration tax is \$20 and permanent
 2.17 registration must be issued.

2.18 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective January 1, 2025.

2.19 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 168.12, subdivision 5, is amended to read:

2.20 Subd. 5. **Additional fee.** (a) In addition to any fee otherwise authorized or any tax
 2.21 otherwise imposed upon any vehicle, the payment of which is required as a condition to the
 2.22 issuance of any plate or plates, the commissioner ~~shall~~ must impose the fee specified in
 2.23 paragraph (b) that is calculated to cover the cost of manufacturing and issuing the plate or
 2.24 plates, except for plates issued to disabled veterans as defined in section 168.031 and plates
 2.25 issued pursuant to section 168.124, 168.125, or 168.27, subdivisions 16 and 17, for passenger
 2.26 automobiles. The commissioner ~~shall~~ must issue graphic design plates only for vehicles
 2.27 registered pursuant to section 168.017 and recreational vehicles registered pursuant to section
 2.28 168.013, subdivision 1g.

2.29 (b) Unless otherwise specified or exempted by statute, the following plate and ~~validation~~
 2.30 sticker fees apply for the original, duplicate, or replacement issuance ~~of a plate in a plate~~
 2.31 ~~year:~~

| | | |
|-----------------------------|----------|----------|
| 2.32 License Plate | Single | Double |
| 2.33 Regular and Disability | \$ 13.50 | \$ 15.50 |

| | | | | | |
|------|------------------------------------|----|-----------------|----|------------|
| 3.1 | Special | \$ | 13.50 | \$ | 15.50 |
| 3.2 | Personalized (Replacement) | \$ | 13.50 | \$ | 15.50 |
| 3.3 | Collector Category | \$ | 13.50 | \$ | 15.50 |
| 3.4 | Emergency Vehicle Display | \$ | 3.00 | \$ | 6.00 |
| 3.5 | | | 2.50 | | |
| 3.6 | Utility Trailer Self-Adhesive | \$ | <u>13.50</u> | | |
| 3.7 | Vertical Motorcycle Plate | \$ | 100.00 | | N/A |
| 3.8 | Replacement Dealer Plates | \$ | 5.25 | | |
| 3.9 | Replacement Tax Exempt Plates | \$ | 5.25 | | |
| 3.10 | Stickers | | | | |
| 3.11 | <u>Validation (Duplicate year)</u> | \$ | 1.50 | \$ | 1.50 |
| 3.12 | <u>Small Trailer</u> | \$ | <u>2.50</u> | | <u>N/A</u> |
| 3.13 | International Fuel Tax Agreement | \$ | 2.50 | | |

3.14 (c) For vehicles that require two of the categories in paragraph (b), the registrar ~~shall~~
 3.15 must only charge the higher of the two fees and not a combined total.

3.16 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective January 1, 2025.

3.17 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 169.79, subdivision 3a, is amended to read:

3.18 Subd. 3a. **Small trailer.** If the vehicle is a trailer with 3,000 pounds or less ~~GVW~~ gross
 3.19 vehicle weight with lifetime registration, the ~~numbered~~ vehicle must display:

3.20 (1) a license plate that faces to the rear; or

3.21 (2) a registration sticker must be adhered to the side of the trailer frame tongue near the
 3.22 hitch.

3.23 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective January 1, 2025.