

CHAPTER 168

MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION, TAXATION,
SALE

168.011	Definitions.	168.12	License plates.
168.012	Vehicles exempt from license fees.	168.125	Special license plates for former prisoners of war.
168.021	License plates for physically disabled persons.	168.1281	Personal transportation service plates.
168.031	Exemption from registration; persons in armed forces, disabled veterans, former prisoners of war.	168.187	Interstate registration and reciprocity.
168.042	Administrative impoundment of plates.	168.27	Motor vehicle dealers; violations, penalties.
168.09	Registration; reregistration.	168.31	Tax, when due and payable.
168.091	Temporary vehicle permits for nonresidents.	168.34	Information to be furnished.
168.10	Registration; collector vehicles.	168.345	Motor vehicle registrations; information; surcharge.
		168.346	Privacy of name or residence address.

168.011 DEFINITIONS.

[For text of subds 1 to 35, see M.S.1992]

Subd. 36. **Personal transportation service vehicle.** "Personal transportation service vehicle" is a passenger vehicle that has a seating capacity of up to six persons excluding the driver, or a van or station wagon with a seating capacity of up to 12 persons excluding the driver, that provides personal transportation service as defined in section 221.011, subdivision 34.

History: 1993 c 117 s 3

NOTE: The repeal of subdivision 36 by Laws 1993, chapter 323, section 4, is effective August 1, 1994. See Laws 1993, chapter 323, section 5.

168.012 VEHICLES EXEMPT FROM LICENSE FEES.

[For text of subds 1 to 2a, see M.S.1992]

Subd. 2b. A trailer used exclusively to carry liquid or dry fertilizer for use on a farm shall not be taxed as a motor vehicle using the public streets and highways and shall be exempt from the provisions of this chapter.

[For text of subds 3 to 12, see M.S.1992]

History: 1993 c 187 s 1

168.021 LICENSE PLATES FOR PHYSICALLY DISABLED PERSONS.

Subdivision 1. **Special plates; application.** (a) When a motor vehicle registered under section 168.017, a motorcycle, or a self-propelled recreational vehicle is owned or primarily operated by a permanently physically disabled person or a custodial parent or guardian of a permanently physically disabled minor, the owner may apply for and secure from the registrar of motor vehicles (1) immediately, a temporary permit valid for 30 days, if the applicant is eligible for the special plates issued under this paragraph, and (2) two license plates with attached emblems, one plate to be attached to the front, and one to the rear of the vehicle. Application for the plates must be made at the time of renewal or first application for registration. When the owner first applies for the plates, the owner must submit a physician's statement on a form developed by the commissioner under section 169.345, or proof of physical disability provided for in that section.

(b) The owner of a motor vehicle may apply for and secure (i) immediately, a temporary permit valid for 30 days, if the person is eligible to receive the special plates issued under this paragraph, and (ii) a set of special plates for a motor vehicle if:

- (1) the owner employs a permanently physically disabled person who would qualify for special plates under this section; and
- (2) the owner furnishes the motor vehicle to the physically disabled person for the exclusive use of that person in the course of employment.

Subd. 1a. **Scope of privilege.** If a physically disabled person parks a vehicle displaying license plates described in this section, or a temporary permit valid for 30 days and issued to an eligible person awaiting receipt of the license plates described in this section, or any person parks the vehicle for a physically disabled person, that person shall be entitled to park the vehicle as provided in section 169.345.

[For text of subds 2 to 2b, see M.S.1992]

Subd. 3. **Penalties for unauthorized use of plates.** (a) A person who uses the plates or temporary permit provided under this section on a motor vehicle in violation of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor, and is subject to a fine of \$500. This subdivision does not preclude a person who is not physically disabled from operating a vehicle bearing the plates or temporary permit if:

- (1) the person is the owner of the vehicle and permits its operation by a physically disabled person;
- (2) the person operates the vehicle with the consent of the owner who is physically disabled; or
- (3) the person is the owner of the vehicle, is the custodial parent or guardian of a permanently physically disabled minor, and operates the vehicle to transport the minor.

(b) A driver who is not disabled is not entitled to the parking privileges provided in this section and in section 169.346 unless parking the vehicle for a physically disabled person.

[For text of subds 4 to 6, see M.S.1992]

History: 1993 c 98 s 1-3

168.031 EXEMPTION FROM REGISTRATION; PERSONS IN ARMED FORCES, DISABLED VETERANS, FORMER PRISONERS OF WAR.

The motor vehicle of any person who engages in active service in time of war or other emergency declared by proper authority in any of the military or naval forces of the United States shall be exempt from the motor vehicle registration tax during the period of such active service and for 40 days immediately thereafter if the owner has filed with the registrar of motor vehicles a written application for exemption with such proof of military service as the registrar may have required and if the motor vehicle is not operated on a public highway within the state, except by the owner while on furlough or leave of absence.

The motor vehicle of any disabled war veteran, which vehicle has been furnished free, in whole or in part, by the United States government to said disabled veteran, shall be exempt from the motor vehicle registration tax. The motor vehicle owned and registered by a former prisoner of war that bears the "EX-POW" plates is exempt from the motor vehicle registration tax.

History: 1993 c 214 s 1

168.042 ADMINISTRATIVE IMPOUNDMENT OF PLATES.

[For text of subd 1, see M.S.1992]

Subd. 2. **Violation; issuance of impoundment order.** The commissioner shall issue a registration plate impoundment order when:

- (1) a person's driver's license or driving privileges are revoked for a third violation, as defined in subdivision 1, paragraph (c), clause (1), within five years or a fourth

or subsequent violation, as defined in subdivision 1, paragraph (c), clause (1), within 15 years;

(2) a person's driver's license or driving privileges are revoked for a violation of section 169.121, subdivision 3, paragraph (c), clause (4), within five years of one previous violation or within 15 years of two or more previous violations, as defined in subdivision 1, paragraph (c), clause (1); or

(3) a person is arrested for or charged with a violation described in subdivision 1, paragraph (c), clause (2) or (3).

The order shall require the impoundment of the registration plates of the vehicle involved in the violation and all vehicles owned by, registered, or leased in the name of the violator, including vehicles registered jointly or leased in the name of the violator and another. An impoundment order shall not be issued for the registration plates of a rental vehicle as defined in section 168.041, subdivision 10, or a vehicle registered in another state.

[For text of subds 3 to 15, see M.S.1992]

History: 1993 c 347 s 2

168.09 REGISTRATION; REREGISTRATION.

[For text of subds 1 and 2, see M.S.1992]

Subd. 3. Proratable vehicles; other vehicles. (a) Plates or other insignia issued for a motor vehicle registered under the provisions of section 168.187 for a calendar year shall be displayed on the motor vehicle not later than 12:01 a.m. on March 2 of the year unless extended by the registrar for the period of time required for the issuance of the new plates or insignia. The commissioner of public safety shall register all motor vehicles registered under section 168.187 for a period of 14 months for the registration year 1994 to implement the provisions of this subdivision. The registration year for vehicles registered under section 168.187 as provided in this section shall be from March 1 to the last day of February for 1995 and succeeding years.

(b) Plates or other insignia issued for a self-propelled motor vehicle registered for over 27,000 pounds except a motor vehicle registered under the provision of sections 168.017 and 168.187 shall be displayed on the vehicle not later than 12:01 a.m. on March 2 of the year, nor earlier than 12:01 a.m. on February 15 of the year, unless otherwise extended by the registrar for the period of time required for the issuance of the new plates or insignia.

(c) Plates or other insignia issued for a self-propelled vehicle registered for 27,000 pounds or less and all other motor vehicles except those registered under the provisions of section 168.017 or 168.187 shall be displayed not later than 12:01 a.m. on March 2 of the year, and not earlier than January 1 of the year unless otherwise extended by the registrar for the period of time required for the issuance of the new plates or insignia. The registration year for all vehicles as provided in this paragraph and paragraph (b) shall be from March 1 to the last day of February for 1979 and succeeding years.

[For text of subd 4, see M.S.1992]

Subd. 5. Defenses to failure to renew. No person may be charged with violating this section by reason of failure to renew the registration of a previously registered motor vehicle, except those vehicles registered under section 168.187, if:

(1) the person produces a statement from the registrar to the effect that the person was not notified by the registrar of the annual renewal for the registration of the vehicle to which a citation was issued; and

(2) the person renews the registration and pays the motor vehicle tax and fees due within ten days of being cited for the violation.

[For text of subds 6 and 7, see M.S.1992]

History: 1993 c 281 s 1,2

168.091 TEMPORARY VEHICLE PERMITS FOR NONRESIDENTS.

Subdivision 1. **Temporary permit for nonresident buyer.** Upon payment of a fee of \$1, the registrar may issue a permit to a nonresident purchasing a new or used motor vehicle in this state for the purpose of allowing such nonresident to remove the vehicle from this state for registration in another state or country. Such permit shall be in lieu of any other registration or taxation for use of the highways and shall be valid for a period of 31 days. The permit shall be in such form as the registrar may determine and, whenever practicable, shall be posted upon the left side of the inside rear window of the vehicle. Each such permit shall be valid only for the vehicle for which issued.

[For text of subds 2 and 3, see M.S.1992]

History: 1993 c 53 s 1

168.10 REGISTRATION; COLLECTOR VEHICLES.

Subdivision 1. **Application.** Except as provided in subdivisions 1a, 1b, 1c, 1d, 1g, and 1h, every owner of any motor vehicle in this state, not exempted by section 168.012 or 168.26, shall as soon as registered ownership of a motor vehicle is acquired and annually thereafter during the period provided in section 168.31, file with the commissioner of public safety on a blank provided by the commissioner a listing for taxation and application for the registration of such vehicle, stating the first, middle and last names, the date of birth, and the address of the primary residence of each registered owner thereof who is a natural person or mailing address if the address of the primary residence has been classified as private data under this chapter, the full name and address of any other registered owner, the name and address of the person from whom purchased, make of motor vehicle, year and number of the model, manufacturer's identification number or serial number, type of body, the weight of the vehicle in pounds, for trailers only, its rated load carrying capacity and for buses only, its seating capacity, and such other information as the commissioner may require. Any false statement willfully and knowingly made in regard thereto shall be deemed perjury and punished accordingly. The listing and application for registration by dealers or manufacturers' agents within the state, of motor vehicles received for sale or use within the state shall be accepted as compliance with the requirements of this chapter, imposed upon the manufacturer.

Registration shall be refused a motor vehicle if the original identification or serial number has been destroyed, removed, altered, covered, or defaced. However, if the commissioner is satisfied on the sworn statements of the registered owner or registered owners or such other persons as the commissioner may deem advisable that the applicant is the legal owner, a special identification number in the form prescribed by the commissioner shall be assigned to the motor vehicle. When it has been determined that the number had been affixed to such vehicle in a manner prescribed by the commissioner, the vehicle may thereafter be registered in the same manner as other motor vehicles. In the case of a new or rebuilt motor vehicle manufactured or assembled without an identification or serial number, the commissioner may assign an identification number to the motor vehicle in the same manner as prescribed heretofore.

[For text of subds 1a to 4, see M.S.1992]

History: 1993 c 85 s 1

168.12 LICENSE PLATES.

Subdivision 1. **Number plates; design, visibility, periods of issuance.** The registrar, upon the approval and payment, shall issue to the applicant the number plates required by law, bearing the state name and the number assigned. The number assigned may be a combination of a letter or sign with figures. The color of the plates and the color of the abbreviation of the state name and the number assigned shall be in marked contrast. The plates shall be lettered, spaced, or distinguished to suitably indicate the registration of the vehicle according to the rules of the registrar, and when a vehicle is registered

on the basis of total gross weight, the plates issued shall clearly indicate by letters or other suitable insignia the maximum gross weight for which the tax has been paid. These number plates shall be so treated as to be at least 100 times brighter than the conventional painted number plates. When properly mounted on an unlighted vehicle, these number plates, when viewed from a vehicle equipped with standard headlights, shall be visible for a distance of not less than 1,500 feet and readable for a distance of not less than 110 feet. The registrar shall issue these number plates for the following periods:

(1) New number plates issued pursuant to section 168.012, subdivision 1, shall be issued to a vehicle for as long as it is owned by the exempt agency and shall not be transferable from one vehicle to another but may be transferred with the vehicle from one tax exempt agency to another.

(2) Plates issued for passenger automobiles as defined in section 168.011, subdivision 7, shall be issued for a seven-year period. All plates issued under this paragraph must be replaced if they are seven years old or older at the time of annual registration or will become so during the registration period.

(3) Number plates issued under sections 168.053 and 168.27, subdivisions 16 and 17, shall be for a seven-year period.

(4) Plates for any vehicle not specified in clauses (1) to (3), except for trailers as hereafter provided, shall be issued for the life of the vehicle. Beginning with number plates issued for the year 1981, plates issued for trailers with a total gross weight of 3,000 pounds or less shall be issued for the life of the trailer and shall be not more than seven inches in length and four inches in width.

In a year in which plates are not issued, the registrar shall issue for each registration a tab or sticker to designate the year of registration. This tab or sticker shall show the calendar year or years for which issued, and is valid only for that period. The number plates, number tabs, or stickers issued for a motor vehicle may not be transferred to another motor vehicle during the period for which it is issued, except a motor vehicle registered under section 168.187.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this subdivision, number plates issued to a vehicle which is used for behind-the-wheel instruction in a driver education course in a public school may be transferred to another vehicle used for the same purpose without payment of any additional fee. The registrar shall be notified of each transfer of number plates under this paragraph and may prescribe a form for notification.

[For text of subds 2 to 2d, see M.S.1992]

Subd. 5. Additional fee. In addition to any fee otherwise authorized or any tax otherwise imposed upon any motor vehicle, the payment of which is required as a condition to the issuance of any number license plate or plates, the commissioner of public safety may impose a fee that is calculated to cover the cost of manufacturing and issuing the license plate or plates, except for license plates issued to disabled veterans as defined in section 168.031 and license plates issued pursuant to section 168.124, 168.125, or 168.27, subdivisions 16 and 17, for passenger automobiles. Graphic design license plates shall only be issued for vehicles registered pursuant to section 168.017 and recreational vehicles registered pursuant to section 168.013, subdivision 1g.

Fees collected under this subdivision must be paid into the state treasury and credited to the highway user tax distribution fund.

History: 1993 c 214 s 2; 1993 c 281 s 3

168.125 SPECIAL LICENSE PLATES FOR FORMER PRISONERS OF WAR.

Subdivision 1. Issuance and design. The registrar shall issue special license plates bearing the inscription "EX-POW" to any applicant who is both a former prisoner of war and an owner or joint owner of a motor vehicle upon the applicant's compliance with all the laws of this state relating to the registration and licensing of motor vehicles and drivers. The special license plates shall be of a design and size to be determined

by the commissioner. Plates bearing the "EX-POW" inscription may be issued for only one motor vehicle per applicant.

Subd. 1a. Application. Application for issuance of these plates shall be made at the time of renewal or first application for registration. The application shall include a certification by the commissioner of veterans affairs that the applicant was a member of the military forces of the United States who was captured, separated, and incarcerated by an enemy of the United States during a period of armed conflict.

Subd. 1b. No fee. The registrar shall issue a set of EX-POW plates to qualified applicants, free of charge for the cost of the plates, and shall replace them without charge if they become damaged. In addition, no fee may be charged for a subsequent year when tabs or stickers are issued for that motor vehicle on which the special EX-POW plates are placed.

Subd. 1c. Plates transfer. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 168.12, subdivision 1, the special license plates issued under this section may be transferred to another motor vehicle owned or jointly owned by the former prisoner of war upon notification to the registrar of motor vehicles.

Subd. 1d. Surviving spouse. Upon the death of a former prisoner of war, the registrar shall continue to issue free of charge, upon renewal, the special license plates to a vehicle owned by the surviving spouse of the former prisoner of war. Special license plates issued to a surviving spouse may be transferred to another vehicle owned by the surviving spouse as provided in subdivision 1c. No fee may be charged for replacement plates issued to a surviving spouse or for tabs or stickers issued for the motor vehicle on which the special "EX-POW" plates are placed. A surviving spouse is not exempt from the motor vehicle registration tax.

Subd. 1e. Motor vehicle; special definition. For purposes of this section, "motor vehicle" means a passenger automobile, van, pickup truck, motorcycle, or recreational vehicle.

[For text of subds 2 to 5, see M.S.1992]

History: 1993 c 214 s 3

168.1281 PERSONAL TRANSPORTATION SERVICE PLATES.

[For text of subds 1 and 2, see M.S.1992]

Subd. 3. Notification of cancellation. The commissioner shall immediately notify the commissioner of transportation if the policy of a person required to have a permit under section 221.85 is canceled or no longer provides the coverage required by subdivision 2.

Subd. 4. New license plates. The registrar may not issue new license plates under subdivision 1 after August 1, 1993.

History: 1993 c 117 s 4; 1993 c 323 s 1

NOTE: The repeal of this section by Laws 1993, chapter 323, section 4, is effective August 1, 1994. See Laws 1993, chapter 323, section 5.

168.187 INTERSTATE REGISTRATION AND RECIPROCITY.

[For text of subds 1 to 25, see M.S.1992]

Subd. 26. Delinquent filing or payment. If a fleet owner or owner-operator licensed under this section and section 296.171 is delinquent in either filing or paying the international fuel tax agreement reports for more than 30 days, or paying the international registration plan billing for more than 30 days, the fleet owner or owner-operator, after ten days' written notice, is subject to suspension of the apportioned license plates and the international fuel tax agreement license.

History: 1993 c 13 art 1 s 29; 1993 c 281 s 4

168.27 MOTOR VEHICLE DEALERS; VIOLATIONS, PENALTIES.*[For text of subds 1 to 20, see M.S.1992]*

Subd. 22. **Motorized bicycles, boat and snowmobile trailers.** Any person, copartnership, or corporation having a permanent enclosed commercial building or structure either owned in fee or leased and engaged in the business, either exclusively or in addition to any other occupation, of selling motorized bicycles, boat trailers, horse trailers, or snowmobile trailers, may apply to the registrar for a dealer's license. Upon payment of a \$10 fee the registrar shall license the applicant as a dealer for the remainder of the calendar year in which the application was received. Thereafter the license may be renewed on or before the second day of January of each year by payment of a fee of \$10. The registrar shall issue to each dealer, upon request of the dealer, dealer plates as provided in subdivision 16 upon payment of \$5 for each plate, and the plates may be used in the same manner and for the same purposes as is provided in subdivision 16. Except for motorized bicycle dealers, the registrar shall also issue to the dealer, upon request of the dealer, "in transit" plates as provided in subdivision 17 upon payment of a fee of \$5 for each plate. This subdivision shall not be construed to abrogate any of the provisions of this section as the same relates to the duties, responsibilities, and requirements of persons, copartnerships, or corporations engaged in the business, either exclusively or in addition to other occupations, of selling motor vehicles or manufactured homes. This section shall not be construed to require a manufacturer of snowmobile trailers whose manufacturing facility is located outside of the metropolitan area as defined in section 473.121 to have a dealer's license to transport the snowmobile trailers to dealers or retail outlets in the state.

*[For text of subds 23 to 26, see M.S.1992]***History:** 1993 c 259 s 1**168.31 TAX, WHEN DUE AND PAYABLE.***[For text of subds 1 and 4, see M.S.1992]*

Subd. 4a. **Installments.** If the tax for a vehicle assessed under section 168.187 amounts to more than \$400, the owner may pay the tax by installments. The owner shall submit with the application for registration, no later than January 1, one-third of the Minnesota annual tax due or \$400, whichever is greater. The applicant shall furnish a bond, bank letter of credit, or certificate of deposit approved by the registrar of motor vehicles, for the total of the tax still due. The amount of the bond, letter of credit, or certificate of deposit may include any penalties assessed. The bond, letter of credit, or certificate of deposit must be for the benefit of the state for monetary loss caused by failure of the vehicle owner to pay delinquent license fees and penalties. The remainder of the tax due must be paid in two equal installments; the due date of the first installment is May 1 and the second installment is due on September 1. If an owner of a vehicle fails to pay an installment on or before the due date, the vehicle must not be used on the public streets or highways in this state until the installment or installments of the tax remaining due on the vehicle has been paid in full for the licensed year, together with a penalty at the rate of \$1 per day for the remainder of the month in which the balance of the tax becomes due and \$4 a month for each succeeding month or fraction of it during which the balance of the tax remains unpaid. The registrar shall deny installment payment privileges provided in this subdivision in the subsequent year to any owner on any or all vehicles of an owner who during the current year fails to pay any installment and penalties due within one month after the due date.

*[For text of subds 5 and 6, see M.S.1992]***History:** 1993 c 281 s 5

168.34 INFORMATION TO BE FURNISHED.

The registrar shall maintain in the registrar's office an information bureau to answer questions, through personal inquiry, telephone, or letter. Registrations shall be completed with the utmost dispatch to render the most efficient service to the public. The registrar, or any deputy or employee, shall not be liable to any person for mistake or negligence in the giving of information not willfully calculated to injure such person. The registration system shall be so conducted, and the requirements thereof so construed, as to furnish to the public immediate, accurate information as to any single car about which the inquiry may be made, and to furnish the registrar a means of checking back during any year to determine that all motor vehicles subject to taxation and licensing have had the proper tax or fee paid thereon.

History: 1993 c 85 s 2

168.345 MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS; INFORMATION; SURCHARGE.

[For text of subs 1 and 2, see M.S.1992]

Subd. 3. Requests for information; surcharge on fee. The commissioner shall impose a surcharge of 50 cents on each fee charged by the commissioner under section 13.03, subdivision 3, for copies or electronic transmittal of public information concerning motor vehicle registrations. This surcharge only applies to a fee imposed in responding to a request made in person or by mail, or to a request for transmittal through a computer modem. The surcharge does not apply to the request of an individual for information concerning vehicles registered in that individual's name. The commissioner shall forward the surcharges collected under this subdivision to the commissioner of finance on a monthly basis. Upon receipt, the commissioner of finance shall credit the surcharges to the general fund.

History: 1993 c 266 s 17; 1993 c 326 art 11 s 2,4

168.346 PRIVACY OF NAME OR RESIDENCE ADDRESS.

The registered owner of a motor vehicle may request in writing that the owner's residence address or name and residence address be classified as private data on individuals, as defined in section 13.02, subdivision 12. The commissioner shall grant the classification upon receipt of a signed statement by the owner that the classification is required for the safety of the owner or the owner's family, if the statement also provides a valid, existing address where the owner consents to receive service of process. The commissioner shall use the mailing address in place of the residence address in all documents and notices pertaining to the motor vehicle. The residence address or name and residence address and any information provided in the classification request, other than the mailing address, are private data on individuals and may be provided to requesting law enforcement agencies.

History: 1993 c 326 art 2 s 2