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ASSEMBLY BILL 30

Topic

Assembly Bill 30 revises provisions regarding the registration of motor vehicles.

Summary

Assembly Bill 30 requires that before the Department of Motor Vehicles issues a driver's license to a new resident of the state, the new resident apply for the registration of each vehicle he owns which is operated in the state. The Department may issue a driver's license to a new resident if the new resident provides a signed affidavit to the Department that attests he does not own any vehicle that is operated in the state or is exempt from the requirement to register each vehicle he owns that is operated in the state. This measure also provides that a person may transfer the original registration to another vehicle registered by him and use the same regular or special license plate on the vehicle from which the registration is being transferred if the license plates are appropriate for the second vehicle.

Assembly Bill 30 also repeals a provision that authorizes the department to refund unexpired registration fees and governmental services taxes when the owner of a motor vehicle cancels his registration. This bill repeals provisions authorizing the department to issue pro rata refunds for unexpired fees for transferring plates.

Effective Date

This measure is effective upon passage and approval.

Background Information

New residents of Nevada are required by current law to register their vehicles within 30 days of moving to Nevada. Based on testimony during the 2001 Legislative Session, many people fail to do so, causing significant losses of revenue for the state, the local governments, and the school districts. However, most new residents apply for a driver's license promptly. A driver's license is needed in order to cash checks and, in some cases, to secure employment.

When the owner of a motor vehicle cancels the registration, he may transfer the unexpired registration fees and privilege taxes to another vehicle that he owns, thereby renewing or extending the registration on the other vehicle. If the amount of unexpired fees and taxes exceeds the amount that can be transferred to another vehicle, the owner may claim a refund. Although it was approved by the Legislature in 1997, the refund provision did not go into effect until January 1, 2001. Representatives of the Department of Motor Vehicles testified during the 2001 Legislative Session that it costs the department almost \$35 to process and issue such a refund while many refunds are issued for less than that amount.