ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 391-ASSEMBLYMEN GOICOECHEA, ELLISON; AND HANSEN

MARCH 21, 2011

Referred to Committee on Taxation

SUMMARY—Revises provisions governing the registration of certain trailers and the depreciation of certain vehicles. (BDR 43-549)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: May have Fiscal Impact. Effect on the State: Yes.

EXPLANATION - Matter in bolded italics is new; matter between brackets [omitted material] is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to motor vehicles; authorizing alternate procedures for the registration of certain trailers; providing an exemption from the governmental services tax for certain trailers; revising provisions relating to the depreciation applied in determining the value of certain vehicles for the calculation of the governmental services tax; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

Existing law requires the annual registration of trailers and semitrailers that are to be operated on the highways of this State and the imposition of a governmental services tax. (NRS 371.030, 482.205, 482.206) Section 9 of this bill authorizes a person who owns a trailer or semitrailer, other than a travel trailer or a recreational vehicle, to instead pay a flat fee and obtain a registration that is valid for as long as the person owns the trailer or semitrailer. Section 11 of this bill exempts trailers and semitrailers that are registered in such a way from the governmental services tax. Sections 3-7 of this bill provide that trailers and semitrailers which are registered in such a way are not eligible for special license plates.

Existing law provides that the value of a vehicle must be depreciated by a certain percentage each year to calculate the annual governmental services tax. (NRS 371.060) Section 10 of this bill revises the percentages by which the value of certain vehicles must be depreciated.



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THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

- **Section 1.** NRS 482.182 is hereby amended to read as follows: 482.182 1. After deducting the amount withheld by the Department and the amount credited to the Department pursuant to subsection 6 of NRS 482.180 and before carrying out the provisions of NRS 482.181 each month, the Department shall direct the State Controller to transfer to the State General Fund from the proceeds of the basic governmental services tax collected by the Department and its agents during the preceding month the amounts indicated pursuant to this section.
- 2. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 3, the amount required to be transferred pursuant to subsection 1 from the proceeds of the basic governmental services tax imposed on vehicles depreciated in accordance with:
 - (a) Subsection 1 of NRS 371.060 based upon an age of:
 - (1) One year, is a sum equal to 11 percent of those proceeds;
- (2) Two years, is a sum equal to 12 percent of those proceeds;
- (3) Three years, is a sum equal to 13 percent of those proceeds;
- (4) Four years, is a sum equal to 15 percent of those proceeds;
- (5) Five years, is a sum equal to 18 percent of those proceeds;
 - (6) Six years, is a sum equal to 22 percent of those proceeds;
- (7) Seven years, is a sum equal to 29 percent of those proceeds;
- (8) Eight years, is a sum equal to 40 percent of those proceeds; and
- (9) Nine years or more, is a sum equal to 67 percent of those proceeds; and
 - (b) Subsection 2 or 3 of NRS 371.060 based upon an age of:
 - (1) One year, is a sum equal to 12 percent of those proceeds;
- (2) Two years, is a sum equal to 14 percent of those proceeds;
- (3) Three years, is a sum equal to 18 percent of those proceeds;
- (4) Four years, is a sum equal to 21 percent of those proceeds;
- (5) Five years, is a sum equal to 26 percent of those proceeds;
 - (6) Six years, is a sum equal to 30 percent of those proceeds;





- (7) Seven years, is a sum equal to 33 percent of those proceeds;
 - (8) Eight years, is a sum equal to 37 percent of those proceeds;
 - (9) Nine years, is a sum equal to 40 percent of those proceeds; and
 - (10) Ten years or more, is a sum equal to 43 percent of those proceeds.
 - 3. The amount required to be transferred pursuant to subsection 1 from the proceeds of the basic governmental services tax imposed on vehicles to which the minimum amount of that tax applies pursuant to paragraph (b) of subsection [3] 4 of NRS 371.060 is a sum equal to 63 percent of those proceeds.
 - **Sec. 2.** NRS 482.206 is hereby amended to read as follows:
 - 482.206 1. Except as otherwise provided in this section, every motor vehicle, except for a motor vehicle that is registered pursuant to the provisions of NRS 706.801 to 706.861, inclusive, and except for a trailer or semitrailer that is registered pursuant to subsection 3 of NRS 482.483, must be registered for a period of 12 consecutive months beginning the day after the first registration by the owner in this State.
 - 2. [Every] Except as otherwise provided in subsection 6, every vehicle registered by an agent of the Department or a registered dealer must be registered for 12 consecutive months beginning the first day of the month after the first registration by the owner in this State.
 - 3. [A] Except as otherwise provided in subsection 6, a vehicle which must be registered through the Motor Carrier Division of the Department, or a motor vehicle which has a declared gross weight in excess of 26,000 pounds, must be registered for a period of 12 consecutive months beginning on the date established by the Department by regulation.
- 4. Upon the application of the owner of a fleet of vehicles, the Director may permit the owner to register the fleet on the basis of a calendar year.
- 5. [When] Except as otherwise provided in subsection 6 and in subsection 3 of NRS 482.483, when the registration of any vehicle is transferred pursuant to NRS 482.399, the expiration date of each regular license plate, special license plate or substitute decal must, at the time of the transfer of registration, be advanced for a period of 12 consecutive months beginning:
- (a) The first day of the month after the transfer, if the vehicle is transferred by an agent of the Department; or
 - (b) The day after the transfer in all other cases,





- → and a credit on the portion of the fee for registration and the governmental services tax attributable to the remainder of the current period of registration must be allowed pursuant to the applicable provisions of NRS 482.399.
- 6. A trailer or semitrailer that is registered pursuant to subsection 3 of NRS 482.483 is registered until the date of any transfer of ownership of the trailer or semitrailer by the owner who registered the trailer or semitrailer.
 - **Sec. 3.** NRS 482.274 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 482.274 1. The Director shall order the preparation of vehicle license plates for trailers in the same manner provided for motor vehicles in NRS 482.270 [...], except that a vehicle license plate prepared for a trailer or semitrailer that is registered pursuant to subsection 3 of NRS 482.483 is not required to have displayed upon it the month and year the registration expires.
- 2. The Director shall order preparation of two sizes of vehicle license plates for trailers. The smaller plates may be used for trailers with a gross vehicle weight of less than 1,000 pounds.
- 3. The Director shall determine the registration numbers assigned to trailers.
- 4. Any license plates issued for a trailer before July 1, 1975, bearing a different designation from that provided for in this section, are valid during the period for which such plates were issued.
- 5. The Department shall not issue for a trailer or semitrailer that is registered pursuant to subsection 3 of NRS 482.483 a special license plate available pursuant to NRS 482.3667 to 482.3823, inclusive.
 - **Sec. 4.** NRS 482.3667 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 482.3667 1. The Department shall establish, design and otherwise prepare for issue personalized prestige license plates and shall establish all necessary procedures not inconsistent with this section for the application and issuance of such license plates.
- 2. The Department shall issue personalized prestige license plates, upon payment of the prescribed fee, to any person who otherwise complies with the laws relating to the registration and licensing of motor vehicles or trailers for use on private passenger cars, motorcycles, trucks or trailers [...], except that such plates may not be issued for a trailer or semitrailer that is registered pursuant to subsection 3 of NRS 482.483.
- 3. Personalized prestige license plates are valid for 12 months and are renewable upon expiration. These plates may be transferred from one vehicle or trailer to another if the transfer and registration fees are paid as set out in this chapter.
- 4. In case of any conflict, the person who first made application for personalized prestige license plates and has





continuously renewed them by payment of the required fee has priority.

- 5. The Department may limit by regulation the number of letters and numbers used and prohibit the use of inappropriate letters or combinations of letters and numbers.
- 6. The Department shall not assign to any person not holding the relevant office any letters and numbers denoting that the holder holds a public office.
 - **Sec. 5.** NRS 482.368 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 482.368 1. Except as otherwise provided in [subsection 2,] subsections 2 and 5, the Department shall provide suitable distinguishing license plates for exempt vehicles. These plates must be displayed on the vehicles in the same manner as provided for privately owned vehicles. The fee for the issuance of the plates is \$5. Any license plates authorized by this section must be immediately returned to the Department when the vehicle for which they were issued ceases to be used exclusively for the purpose for which it was exempted from the governmental services tax.
 - 2. License plates furnished for:
- (a) Those vehicles which are maintained for and used by the Governor or under the authority and direction of the Chief Parole and Probation Officer, the State Contractors' Board and auditors, the State Fire Marshal, the Investigation Division of the Department of Public Safety and any authorized federal law enforcement agency or law enforcement agency from another state;
- (b) One vehicle used by the Department of Corrections, three vehicles used by the Department of Wildlife, two vehicles used by the Caliente Youth Center and four vehicles used by the Nevada Youth Training Center;
- (c) Vehicles of a city, county or the State, if authorized by the Department for the purposes of law enforcement or work related thereto or such other purposes as are approved upon proper application and justification;
- (d) Two vehicles used by the office of the county coroner of any county which has created that office pursuant to NRS 244.163; and
- (e) Vehicles maintained for and used by investigators of the following:
 - (1) The State Gaming Control Board;
 - (2) The State Department of Agriculture;
 - (3) The Attorney General;
 - (4) City or county juvenile officers;
 - (5) District attorneys' offices;
 - (6) Public administrators' offices;
 - (7) Public guardians' offices;
 - (8) Sheriffs' offices:





(9) Police departments in the State; and

- (10) The Securities Division of the Office of the Secretary of State,
- must not bear any distinguishing mark which would serve to identify the vehicles as owned by the State, county or city. These license plates must be issued annually for \$12 per plate or, if issued in sets, per set.
- 3. The Director may enter into agreements with departments of motor vehicles of other states providing for exchanges of license plates of regular series for vehicles maintained for and used by investigators of the law enforcement agencies enumerated in paragraph (e) of subsection 2, subject to all of the requirements imposed by that paragraph, except that the fee required by that paragraph must not be charged.
- 4. Applications for the licenses must be made through the head of the department, board, bureau, commission, school district or irrigation district, or through the chair of the board of county commissioners of the county or town or through the mayor of the city, owning or controlling the vehicles, and no plate or plates may be issued until a certificate has been filed with the Department showing that the name of the department, board, bureau, commission, county, city, town, school district or irrigation district, as the case may be, and the words "For Official Use Only" have been permanently and legibly affixed to each side of the vehicle, except those vehicles enumerated in subsection 2.
- 5. The Department shall order the preparation of such license plates issued for a trailer or semitrailer pursuant to subsection 3 of NRS 482.483 in the same manner as provided in NRS 482.274.
- **6.** As used in this section, "exempt vehicle" means a vehicle exempt from the governmental services tax, except a vehicle owned by the United States.
- [6.] 7. The Department shall adopt regulations governing the use of all license plates provided for in this section. Upon a finding by the Department of any violation of its regulations, it may revoke the violator's privilege of registering vehicles pursuant to this section.
 - **Sec. 6.** NRS 482.375 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 482.375 1. An owner of a motor vehicle who is a resident of the State of Nevada and who holds an unrevoked and unexpired official amateur radio station license issued by the Federal Communications Commission, upon application accompanied by proof of ownership of that license, complying with the state motor vehicle laws relating to registration and licensing of motor vehicles, and upon the payment of the regular license fee for plates as prescribed by law, and the payment of an additional fee of \$35, must





be issued a license plate or plates, upon which in lieu of the numbers as prescribed by law must be inscribed the words "RADIO AMATEUR" and the official amateur radio call letters of the applicant as assigned by the Federal Communications Commission. The annual fee for a renewal sticker is \$10 unless waived by the Department pursuant to subsection 2. The plate or plates may be used only on a private passenger car, trailer or travel trailer or on a noncommercial truck [.], except that such plates may not be used on a trailer or semitrailer that is registered pursuant to subsection 3 of NRS 482.483.

- 2. The Department may waive the annual fee for a renewal sticker if the applicant for renewal:
- (a) Submits with the application for renewal a statement under penalty of perjury that the applicant will assist in communications during local, state and federal emergencies; and
- (b) Satisfies any other requirements established by the Department by regulation for such a waiver.
- 3. The cost of the die and modifications necessary for the issuance of a license plate pursuant to this section must be paid from private sources without any expense to the State of Nevada.
 - 4. The Department may adopt regulations:
- (a) To ensure compliance with all state license laws relating to the use and operation of a motor vehicle before issuance of the plates in lieu of the regular Nevada license plate or plates.
- (b) Setting forth the requirements and procedure for obtaining a waiver of the annual fee for a renewal sticker.
- 5. All applications for the plates authorized by this section must be made to the Department.

Sec. 7. NRS 482.3824 is hereby amended to read as follows:

- 482.3824 1. Except as otherwise provided in NRS 482.38279, with respect to any special license plate that is issued pursuant to NRS 482.3667 to 482.3823, inclusive, and for which additional fees are imposed for the issuance of the special license plate to generate financial support for a charitable organization:
- (a) The Director shall, at the request of the charitable organization that is benefited by the particular special license plate:
- (1) Order the design and preparation of souvenir license plates, the design of which must be substantially similar to the particular special license plate; and
- (2) Issue such souvenir license plates, for a fee established pursuant to NRS 482.3825, only to the charitable organization that is benefited by the particular special license plate. The charitable organization may resell such souvenir license plates at a price determined by the charitable organization.





- (b) The Department may, except as otherwise provided in this paragraph and after the particular special license plate is approved for issuance, issue the special license plate for a trailer, motorcycle or other type of vehicle that is not a passenger car or light commercial vehicle, excluding vehicles required to be registered with the Department pursuant to NRS 706.801 to 706.861, inclusive, and trailers or semitrailers that are registered pursuant to subsection 3 of NRS 482.483, upon application by a person who is entitled to license plates pursuant to NRS 482.265 or 482.272 and who otherwise complies with the requirements for registration and licensing pursuant to this chapter or chapter 486 of NRS. The Department may not issue a special license plate for such other types of vehicles if the Department determines that the design or manufacture of the plate for those other types of vehicles would not be feasible. In addition, if the Department incurs additional costs to manufacture a special license plate for such other types of vehicles, including, without limitation, costs associated with the purchase, manufacture or modification of dies or other equipment necessary to manufacture the special license plate for such other types of vehicles, those additional costs must be paid from private sources without any expense to the State of Nevada.
- 2. If, as authorized pursuant to paragraph (b) of subsection 1, the Department issues a special license plate for a trailer, motorcycle or other type of vehicle that is not a passenger car or light commercial vehicle, the Department shall charge and collect for the issuance and renewal of such a plate the same fees that the Department would charge and collect if the other type of vehicle was a passenger car or light commercial vehicle. As used in this subsection, "fees" does not include any applicable registration or license fees or governmental services taxes.
 - 3. As used in this section:
- (a) "Additional fees" has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 482.38273.
- (b) "Charitable organization" means a particular cause, charity or other entity that receives money from the imposition of additional fees in connection with the issuance of a special license plate pursuant to NRS 482.3667 to 482.3823, inclusive. The term includes the successor, if any, of a charitable organization.
 - **Sec. 8.** NRS 482.399 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 482.399 1. Upon the transfer of the ownership of or interest in any vehicle by any holder of a valid registration, or upon destruction of the vehicle, the registration expires.
- 2. The holder of the original registration may transfer the registration to another vehicle to be registered by the holder and use the same regular license plate or plates or special license plate or



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plates issued pursuant to NRS 482.3667 to 482.3823, inclusive, or 482.384, on the vehicle from which the registration is being transferred, if the license plate or plates are appropriate for the second vehicle, upon filing an application for transfer of registration and upon paying the transfer registration fee and the excess, if any, of the registration fee and governmental services tax on the vehicle to which the registration is transferred over the total registration fee and governmental services tax paid on all vehicles from which he or she is transferring ownership or interest. Except as otherwise provided in NRS 482.294, an application for transfer of registration must be made in person, if practicable, to any office or agent of the Department or to a registered dealer, and the license plate or plates may not be used upon a second vehicle until registration of that vehicle is complete.

- 3. In computing the governmental services Department, its agent or the registered dealer shall credit the portion of the tax paid on the first vehicle attributable to the remainder of the current registration period or calendar year on a pro rata monthly basis against the tax due on the second vehicle or on any other vehicle of which the person is the registered owner. If any person transfers ownership or interest in two or more vehicles, the Department or the registered dealer shall credit the portion of the tax paid on all of the vehicles attributable to the remainder of the current registration period or calendar year on a pro rata monthly basis against the tax due on the vehicle to which the registration is transferred or on any other vehicle of which the person is the registered owner. The certificates of registration and unused license plates of the vehicles from which a person transfers ownership or interest must be submitted before credit is given against the tax due on the vehicle to which the registration is transferred or on any other vehicle of which the person is the registered owner.
- 4. [In] Except as otherwise provided in subsection 3 of NRS 482.483, in computing the registration fee, the Department or its agent or the registered dealer shall credit the portion of the registration fee paid on each vehicle attributable to the remainder of the current calendar year or registration period on a pro rata basis against the registration fee due on the vehicle to which registration is transferred.
- 5. If the amount owed on the registration fee or governmental services tax on the vehicle to which registration is transferred is less than the credit on the total registration fee or governmental services tax paid on all vehicles from which a person transfers ownership or interest, no refund may be allowed by the Department.



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- 6. If the license plate or plates are not appropriate for the second vehicle, the plate or plates must be surrendered to the Department or registered dealer and an appropriate plate or plates must be issued by the Department. The Department shall not reissue the surrendered plate or plates until the next succeeding licensing period.
- 7. If application for transfer of registration is not made within 60 days after the destruction or transfer of ownership of or interest in any vehicle, the license plate or plates must be surrendered to the Department on or before the 60th day for cancellation of the registration.
- 8. [Iff Except as otherwise provided in subsection 3 of NRS 482.483, if a person cancels his or her registration and surrenders to the Department the license plates for a vehicle, the Department shall, in accordance with the provisions of subsection 9, issue to the person a refund of the portion of the registration fee and governmental services tax paid on the vehicle attributable to the remainder of the current calendar year or registration period on a pro rata basis.
- 9. The Department shall issue a refund pursuant to subsection 8 only if the request for a refund is made at the time the registration is cancelled and the license plates are surrendered, the person requesting the refund is a resident of Nevada, the amount eligible for refund exceeds \$100, and evidence satisfactory to the Department is submitted that reasonably proves the existence of extenuating circumstances. For the purposes of this subsection, the term "extenuating circumstances" means circumstances wherein:
- (a) The person has recently relinquished his or her driver's license and has sold or otherwise disposed of his or her vehicle.
- (b) The vehicle has been determined to be inoperable and the person does not transfer the registration to a different vehicle.
- (c) The owner of the vehicle is seriously ill or has died and the guardians or survivors have sold or otherwise disposed of the vehicle.
- (d) Any other event occurs which the Department, by regulation, has defined to constitute an "extenuating circumstance" for the purposes of this subsection.
 - **Sec. 9.** NRS 482.483 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 482.483 In addition to any other applicable fee listed in NRS 482.480, there must be paid to the Department:
- 1. [For] Except as otherwise provided in subsection 3, for every trailer or semitrailer having an unladen weight of 1,000 pounds or less, a flat registration fee of \$12.





- 2. **[For]** Except as otherwise provided in subsection 3, for every trailer having an unladen weight of more than 1,000 pounds, a flat registration fee of \$24.
- 3. For any trailer or semitrailer, other than a recreational vehicle or travel trailer, for a registration that does not expire until the owner transfers ownership of the trailer or semitrailer, a flat registration fee of \$100. A trailer or semitrailer registered pursuant to this subsection is exempt from payment of the governmental services tax required pursuant to NRS 371.030. If, pursuant to NRS 482.399, the owner of a trailer or semitrailer that is registered pursuant to this subsection:
- (a) Transfers that registration to another trailer or semitrailer, the flat registration fee of \$100 is due upon the transfer of the registration.
- (b) Cancels the registration of the trailer or semitrailer and surrenders the license plates, no portion of the flat registration fee will be refunded to the owner.

Sec. 10. NRS 371.060 is hereby amended to read as follows:

371.060 1. Except as otherwise provided in [subsection 2,] subsections 2 and 3, each vehicle must be depreciated by the Department for the purposes of the annual governmental services tax according to the following schedule:

23 24	Age	Percentage of Initial Value
25		
26	New	
27	1 year	95 percent
28	2 years	85 percent
29	3 years	75 percent
30	4 years	65 percent
31	5 years	
32	6 years	45 percent
33	7 years	
34	8 years	
35	9 years or more	
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2. Each bus, truck or truck-tractor having a declared gross weight of 10,000 pounds or more and [each trailer or semitrailer having an unladen weight of 4,000 pounds or] not more than 26,000 pounds must be depreciated by the Department for the purposes of the annual governmental services tax according to the following schedule:





1		Percentage of
2	Age	Initial Value
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4	New	100 percent
5	1 vear	85 percent
6	2 years	
7	3 years	
8	4 years	47 percent
9	5 years	38 percent
10	6 years	33 percent
11	7 years	30 percent
12	8 years	27 percent
13	9 years	25 percent
14		23 percent
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3. Each bus, truck or truck-tractor having a declared gross weight of 26,001 pounds or more and each trailer or semitrailer having an unladen weight of 4,000 pounds or more must be depreciated by the Department for the purposes of the annual governmental services tax according to the following schedule:

 Age
 Percentage of Initial Value

 New
 100 percent

 1 year
 85 percent

 2 years
 75 percent

 3 years
 59 percent

 4 years
 47 percent

 5 years
 37 percent

 6 years
 28 percent

 7 years
 23 percent

 8 years
 20 percent

 9 years
 17 percent

 10 years or more
 15 percent

- **4.** Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, the minimum amount of the governmental services tax:
- (a) On any trailer having an unladen weight of 1,000 pounds or less is \$3; and
 - (b) On any other vehicle is \$16.
- [4.] 5. For the purposes of this section, a vehicle shall be deemed a "new" vehicle if the vehicle has never been registered with the Department and has never been registered with the appropriate agency of any other state, the District of Columbia, any





territory or possession of the United States or any foreign state, province or country.

- **Sec. 11.** NRS 371.100 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 371.100 1. The governmental services tax imposed by this chapter does not apply to:
- (a) Vehicles owned by the United States, the State of Nevada, any political subdivision of the State of Nevada, or any county, municipal corporation, city, unincorporated town or school district in the State of Nevada;
- (b) Except for vehicles used for commercial purposes, vehicles owned by the governing body of an Indian reservation or Indian colony in this State if:
- (1) The Indian tribe of the reservation or colony is recognized by federal law; and
- (2) The governing body is located on the reservation or colony;
- (c) Vehicles for whose operation money is provided by the State or Federal Government and which are operated solely for the transportation of or furnishing services to elderly persons or persons with disabilities; for
- (d) Emergency vehicles owned by any volunteer fire department or volunteer ambulance service based in this State [:]; or
- (e) A trailer or semitrailer that is registered pursuant to subsection 3 of NRS 482.483.
- 2. Any vehicle which ceases to be used exclusively for the purpose for which it is exempted from the governmental services tax by this section becomes immediately subject to that tax.
- 3. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 4, vehicles exempted from the governmental services tax by this section which are leased, loaned or otherwise made available to and used by a private person, association or corporation in connection with a business conducted for profit are subject to taxation in the same amount and to the same extent as though the lessee or user were the owner of such vehicle.
- 4. Vehicles which are used by a private person and are dedicated for exclusive use as part of a system which:
 - (a) Operates vehicles for public transportation in an urban area;
 - (b) Transports persons who pay the established fare; and
- (c) Uses public money to operate the system or acquire new equipment,
- are exempted from the governmental services tax imposed by this chapter.
- **Sec. 12.** 1. This act becomes effective upon passage and approval for the purpose of adopting regulations and on July 1, 2011, for all other purposes.





2. Section 1 of this act expires by limitation on June 30, 2013.





