

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DOT 2/29/2012

LRB Number	11-3267/1	Introduction Number	SB-462	Estimate Type	Original
Description Registration of motor vehicles by the Department of Transportation					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

This bill requires DOT, with limited exceptions, to register any motor vehicle for which DOT receives a complete and proper application. In the event that registration is refused, this bill provides the vehicle owner the option of having the vehicle inspected to determine compliance with equipment standards. It is uncertain how this provision would impact workload for DOT inspectors. It is expected that there would be an increase in registration applications, particularly from owners of vehicles previously ineligible for registration.

Under the proposal, applications for registration may increase as a result of the expansion of motor vehicles eligible for registration, including such vehicles as off-road motorcycles, dune buggies, Japanese mini-trucks, and former military vehicles excluding tracked vehicles. It is not known how many vehicles previously ineligible for registration this would include. Registration revenue would likely increase an indeterminate amount.

Assuming vehicle owners are familiar with what vehicles would be eligible for registration under this bill, DOT would not refuse many applications which could limit the number of new inspection requests. DOT may also see a reduction in time spent researching and denying registrations for vehicles previously ineligible for registration. It is also possible that DOT would see an increase in applications to register vehicles that remain ineligible for registration under this bill. If those individuals exercised the option to have an inspection, DOT would see an increase in registration denials processed and the number inspections to be performed.

The Department assumes that the bill is not intended to allow the applicant to avoid the existing statutory requirements necessary to obtain certain specific types of registration, including Historic Military Vehicle, Antique, Collector and Hobbyist. For instance, in order to qualify for an Antique license plate, the motor vehicle must be of the model year 1945 or earlier which has not been altered or modified from the original manufacturer's specifications. It appears that s.341.068(2) may allow the applicant to avoid these requirements by merely passing a safety inspection and DOT would then be required to issue any registration requested. If the Department's assumption is incorrect, this could negatively impact revenue if applicants were able to obtain non-expiring registration they currently are not entitled to.

Under the proposal, a motor vehicle more than 20 years old that "has not been substantially altered or modified from original manufacturers' specifications" is eligible for a Collectors plate. The proposal does not define "substantially", making the determination of each collector registration application by the Department subjective and without statutory guidance. The relaxing of the restrictions on Collector plates may increase applications for these plates; however this would likely be offset by a proportionate decrease in Hobbyist plates that were previously exclusive to motor vehicles 20 years old or older with modifications.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications