

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 2201

91ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVES HILGEMANN AND BOUCHER (Co-sponsors).

Read 1st time March 14, 2002, and 1000 copies ordered printed.

TED WEDEL, Chief Clerk

5081L.011

AN ACT

To repeal sections 301.130 and 301.135, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof two new sections relating to motor vehicle registration tabs.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Sections 301.130 and 301.135, RSMo, are repealed and two new sections
2 enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 301.130 and 301.135, to read as follows:

301.130. 1. The director of revenue, upon receipt of a proper application for registration,
2 required fees and any other information which may be required by law, shall issue to the
3 applicant a certificate of registration in such manner and form as the director of revenue may
4 prescribe and a set of license plates, or other evidence of registration, as provided herein. Each
5 set of license plates shall bear the name or abbreviated name of this state, the words "SHOW-ME
6 STATE", the month and year in which the registration shall expire, and an arrangement of
7 numbers or letters, or both, as shall be assigned from year to year by the director of revenue.
8 Special plates for qualified disabled veterans will have the "DISABLED VETERAN" wording
9 on the license plates in preference to the words "SHOW-ME STATE" and special plates for
10 members of the national guard will have the "NATIONAL GUARD" wording in preference to
11 the words "SHOW-ME STATE".

12 2. The arrangement of letters and numbers of license plates shall be uniform throughout
13 each classification of registration.

14 3. The background of all license plates, or the letters and numerals thereof, shall be
15 coated with a material which will reflect the lights of other vehicles. The nature and
16 specifications of this material shall be determined after a public hearing by the director of
17 revenue, director of prison industries, and superintendent of the state highway patrol, and shall
18 meet the standards established by the state transportation department.

19 4. Figures on license plates, except those which may be used to designate gross weights
20 for which commercial motor vehicles are registered, shall not be less than three inches in height
21 and the strokes thereof not less than five-sixteenths of an inch in width. In the case of
22 motorcycles and motortricycles, the letters and figures shall be not less than one inch in height
23 and the strokes thereof one-eighth of an inch in width. The director may provide for the
24 arrangement of the numbers in groups or otherwise, and for other distinguishing marks on the
25 plates.

26 5. All property-carrying commercial motor vehicles to be registered at a gross weight in
27 excess of twelve thousand pounds, all passenger-carrying commercial motor vehicles, local
28 transit buses, school buses, trailers, semitrailers, motorcycles, motortricycles, motorscooters and
29 driveaway vehicles shall be registered with the director of revenue as provided for in subsection
30 3 of section 301.030, but only one license plate shall be issued for each such vehicle.

31 6. The plates issued to manufacturers and dealers shall bear the letter "D" preceding the
32 number, and the director may place upon the plates other letters or marks to distinguish
33 commercial motor vehicles and trailers and other types of motor vehicles.

34 7. No motor vehicle or trailer shall be operated on any highway of this state unless it
35 shall have displayed thereon the license plate or set of license plates issued by the director of
36 revenue and authorized by section 301.140. Each such plate shall be securely fastened to the
37 motor vehicle in a manner so that all parts thereof shall be plainly visible and reasonably clean
38 so that the reflective qualities thereof are not impaired. License plates shall be fastened to all
39 motor vehicles except trucks, tractors, truck tractors or truck-tractors licensed in excess of twelve
40 thousand pounds on the front and rear of such vehicles not less than eight nor more than
41 forty-eight inches above the ground, with the letters and numbers thereon right side up. The
42 license plates on trailers, motorcycles, motortricycles and motorscooters shall be displayed on
43 the rear of such vehicles, with the letters and numbers thereon right side up. The license plate
44 on trucks, tractors, truck tractors or truck-tractors licensed in excess of twelve thousand pounds
45 shall be displayed on the front of such vehicles not less than eight nor more than forty-eight
46 inches above the ground, with the letters and numbers thereon right side up. The license plate
47 or plates authorized by section 301.140, when properly attached, shall be prima facie evidence
48 that the required fees have been paid.

49 8. (1) The director of revenue shall issue annually a tab or set of tabs as evidence of the
50 annual payment of registration fees and the current registration of a vehicle in lieu of the set of
51 plates; except that the director shall annually issue a new license plate or set of plates as provided
52 in this section for vehicles registered pursuant to subsection 2 of section 301.277, commercial
53 motor vehicles in excess of twelve thousand pounds, trailers, buses and dealers.

54 (2) The vehicle owner to whom a tab or set of tabs is issued shall affix and display such

55 tab or tabs on the middle of the license plate, no more than one per plate. **Beginning January**
56 **1, 2003, for vehicle owners whose annual registration fees are set by section 301.055, the**
57 **tabs issued annually by the director of revenue pursuant to subsection 1 of this section shall**
58 **be designed and manufactured so as to adhere to the inside of a motor vehicle's windshield**
59 **and to be visible from the exterior of the vehicle, and shall be affixed by the vehicle owner**
60 **to the interior side of the motor vehicle's windshield in the lower corner on the driver's**
61 **side. For all vehicle owners whose annual registration fees are set by any section other**
62 **than section 301.055, the system of tab design and placement on the license plate shall**
63 **continue as it was on the date this section was enacted.**

64 (3) A tab or set of tabs issued by the director when attached to a vehicle in the prescribed
65 manner shall be prima facie evidence that the registration fee for such vehicle has been paid.

66 (4) Except as provided in subdivision (1) of this subsection, the director of revenue shall
67 issue plates for a period of at least five years.

68 (5) For those commercial motor vehicles and trailers registered pursuant to section
69 301.041, the plate issued by the director of revenue shall be a permanent nonexpiring license
70 plate for which no tabs shall be issued. Nothing in this section shall relieve the owner of any
71 vehicle permanently registered pursuant to this section from the obligation to pay the annual
72 registration fee due for the vehicle. The permanent nonexpiring license plate shall be returned
73 to the director of revenue upon the sale or disposal of the vehicle by the owner to whom the
74 permanent nonexpiring license plate is issued, or the plate may be transferred to a replacement
75 commercial motor vehicle when the owner files a supplemental application with the Missouri
76 highway reciprocity commission for the registration of such replacement commercial motor
77 vehicle. Upon payment of the annual registration fee, the director of revenue shall issue a
78 certificate of registration or other suitable evidence of payment of the annual fee, and such
79 evidence of payment shall be carried at all times in the vehicle for which it is issued.

80 (6) Upon the sale or disposal of any vehicle permanently registered under this section,
81 or upon the termination of a lease of any such vehicle, the permanent nonexpiring plate issued
82 for such vehicle shall be returned to the director and shall not be valid for operation of such
83 vehicle, or the plate may be transferred to a replacement vehicle when the owner files a
84 supplemental application with the Missouri highway reciprocity commission for the registration
85 of such replacement vehicle. If a vehicle which is permanently registered under this section is
86 sold, wrecked or otherwise disposed of, or the lease terminated, the registrant shall be given
87 credit for any unused portion of the annual registration fee when the vehicle is replaced by the
88 purchase or lease of another vehicle during the registration year.

89 9. The director of revenue may prescribe rules and regulations for the effective
90 administration of this section. No rule or portion of a rule promulgated under the authority of

91 this section shall become effective unless it has been promulgated pursuant to the provisions of
92 section 536.024, RSMo.

301.135. Any motor vehicle which is eligible for permanent registration pursuant to the
2 provisions of section 301.131 may also be licensed by the owner thereof with personalized
3 license plates in the same manner as that otherwise provided by law. Such registration and
4 license plates shall be made and issued only upon the payment of an annual fee equivalent to that
5 regularly charged for personalized license plates in addition to the one-time permanent
6 registration fee authorized by section 301.131. Such license plates may have a tab or other
7 identifying characteristics to readily show the year for which issued. **Effective January 1, 2003,**
8 **such tab may be designed and manufactured so as to adhere to the inside of a motor**
9 **vehicle's windshield and to be visible from the exterior of the vehicle, and if so designed**
10 **and manufactured shall be affixed by the vehicle owner to the interior side of the motor**
11 **vehicle's windshield in the lower corner on the driver's side.**