

1 HOUSE BILL 232

2 **54TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2019**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Debra M. Sariñana

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10 AN ACT

11 RELATING TO MOTOR VEHICLES; PROVIDING FOR THE REFUND OF VEHICLE  
12 REGISTRATION FEES FOR REQUESTED REVOCATIONS OF VEHICLE  
13 REGISTRATIONS.

14  
15 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

16 SECTION 1. Section 66-3-19 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1978,  
17 Chapter 35, Section 39, as amended by Laws 1995, Chapter 44,  
18 Section 2 and also by Laws 1995, Chapter 135, Section 12) is  
19 amended to read:

20 "66-3-19. RENEWAL OF REGISTRATION--STAGGERED PERIOD FOR  
21 VEHICLES--EXCEPTION FOR MANUFACTURED HOMES AND FREIGHT  
22 TRAILERS--LATE REGISTRATION--REFUND OF FEES.--

23 A. The department, in order to operate a more  
24 uniform system of vehicle registration, is authorized for  
25 certain or all vehicles to:

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1 (1) prorate registration fees by quarterly  
2 increments for periods in excess of twelve months, but not  
3 exceeding twenty-four months;

4 (2) determine the specific registered vehicle  
5 owners and the numbers of these to be assigned to each  
6 registration period in order to maintain the system;

7 (3) notify each registered vehicle owner by  
8 mail at the last known address within an appropriate period  
9 prior to the expiration of the current registration period.  
10 The notice shall include a renewal-of-registration application  
11 form specifying the amount of registration fees due and the  
12 specific dates of the registration period covered by the  
13 renewal application;

14 (4) provide for the retention of registration  
15 plates;

16 (5) provide for the issuance of validating  
17 stickers to be affixed either to retained registration plates  
18 or elsewhere on the vehicles as prescribed by the department to  
19 signify the registration of the vehicles for the current  
20 registration period; and

21 (6) provide for identification purposes  
22 clearly recognizable distinctions between current and expired  
23 registration plates and validation stickers. To this end, the  
24 department, by whatever system or device the secretary may  
25 direct that is approved by the chief of the New Mexico state

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1 police division of the department of public safety, shall  
2 ensure a practicable display of the proper and current  
3 registration of vehicles.

4 B. Certificates of title need not be renewed  
5 annually but shall remain valid until canceled by the  
6 department for cause or upon transfer of any interest shown in  
7 the certificate of title.

8 C. The vehicle registration of vehicles registered  
9 under the provisions of Subsection A of this section expires on  
10 the last day of the period for which the vehicle has been  
11 registered. Every vehicle registration other than vehicles  
12 registered in accordance with Subsection A of this section,  
13 manufactured homes and freight trailers expires December 31.  
14 The department may receive applications for renewal of  
15 registration and may issue new registration evidence and  
16 registration plates or validating stickers at any time prior to  
17 expiration of the current registration.

18 D. The registration of a manufactured home or  
19 freight trailer need not be renewed annually, and the initial  
20 registration shall be effective and considered a current  
21 registration for the purpose of the Motor Vehicle Code as long  
22 as the ownership of the vehicle is not transferred. The  
23 transfer of title provisions of the Motor Vehicle Code do apply  
24 to manufactured homes and freight trailers, and the transferee  
25 is required to register the vehicle in accordance with Section

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1 66-3-103 NMSA 1978. The department is authorized and directed  
2 to issue distinctive registration plates for manufactured homes  
3 and freight trailers that identify the plates as permanent  
4 registration plates.

5 E. It is unlawful to operate or transport or cause  
6 to be transported upon any highways in this state any vehicle,  
7 except a commercial motor vehicle registered in another state  
8 or a manufactured home, subject to registration under the  
9 provisions of the Motor Vehicle Code without having paid the  
10 registration fee or without having secured and constantly  
11 displayed the registration plate required by the Motor Vehicle  
12 Code. If a vehicle, other than a manufactured home, is  
13 operated or transported after the expiration of the vehicle  
14 registration, the owner of the vehicle is subject to a penalty  
15 of the greater of ten dollars (\$10.00) or, if the vehicle is  
16 operated or transported thirty-one or more days after the  
17 expiration of the registration, an amount equal to seventy-five  
18 percent of the registration fee. Any duly appointed deputy or  
19 agent of the department has the authority to seize the vehicle  
20 and hold it until the fee, penalty and any fine that may be  
21 imposed for violation of law are paid and may sell the vehicle  
22 in the manner provided by law for the distraint and sale of  
23 personal property.

24 F. It is unlawful to operate, transport or cause to  
25 be transported upon any highways in this state or to maintain

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1 in any place in this state a manufactured home subject to  
2 registration under the provisions of the Motor Vehicle Code  
3 without having paid the registration fee or without having  
4 secured and constantly displayed the registration plate  
5 required by the Motor Vehicle Code. Violation of this  
6 subsection subjects the owner to a penalty of five dollars  
7 (\$5.00), and no other administrative penalty for failure to  
8 register under the Motor Vehicle Code shall be imposed upon  
9 manufactured homes that are subject to the provisions of  
10 Section 66-6-10 NMSA 1978. Any duly appointed deputy or agent  
11 of the department has authority to seize the manufactured home  
12 and hold it until the fee, penalties and any fine that may be  
13 imposed for violation of law are paid and may sell the  
14 manufactured home in the manner provided by law for the  
15 distraint and sale of personal property.

16 G. If a vehicle owner requests revocation of a  
17 vehicle registration and returns the registration plate issued  
18 for that vehicle, the department shall refund the registration  
19 fee for the time remaining on the registration prorated on  
20 quarterly increments.

21 [~~G.~~] H. This section authorizes a staggered system  
22 of registration of vehicles."