

CHAPTER 261.

[H. B. 254.]

MOTOR VEHICLES—STAGGERED REGISTRATION—
EXCISE TAX.

AN ACT relating to motor vehicles; providing for the staggered registration system of licensing and staggered payment of the excise tax thereon; amending section 11, chapter 384, Laws of 1955 and RCW 46.16.060; amending section 2, chapter 89, Laws of 1955 and RCW 46.16.210; amending section 1, chapter 89, Laws of 1955 and RCW 46.16.220; amending section 1, chapter 90, Laws of 1949 and RCW 46.16.230; amending section 2, chapter 144, Laws of 1943 and RCW 82.44.020; and amending section 25, chapter 139, Laws of 1955 and RCW 82.44.060.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Washington:

SECTION 1. On or after January 1, 1959, all vehicles as defined in RCW 46.04.670, except motor trucks, truck tractors, trailers, semitrailers, motor buses and bus trailers, taxicabs, motor bicycles, motorcycles, electric vehicles, armored cars, wreckers, tow cars, dealer vehicles, and vehicles owned by the state or political subdivisions thereof, the United States and branches thereof, and consuls of foreign countries, shall be registered for a period of twelve consecutive calendar months. There are established twelve registration periods, each of which shall start on the first day of each calendar month of the year and shall end on the last day of the twelfth month from date of beginning. The period beginning January 1st shall be designated the first period, and the subsequent periods shall be numbered consecutively thereafter.

Registration periods created for certain vehicles.

SEC. 2. All motor vehicles, other than those exempted by section 1 of this amendatory act, which are operated for the first time on or after January 1, 1959 upon the public highways of this state, shall be subject to registration and payment of fee for the twelve-month period commencing with the first day of the month of operation.

Registration for vehicles operated after Jan. 1, 1959, for first time.

Motor vehicles. Staggered registration. Registration for less than twelve-month period.

SEC. 3. In order to allow an orderly change over from the system of calendar year registration to the staggered registration system, the director of licenses may register such motor vehicles as are defined in section 1 of this amendatory act for less than a twelve-month period. This may be done at any time or times during the ten-year period beginning January 1, 1959 when the director of licenses determines that such fractional registration tends to fulfill the purpose of the staggered registration system. For such fractional registration periods the registration fee shall be computed and imposed on the basis of the ratio that such fractional registration periods bear to a full twelve months registration period. The director of licenses shall prescribe reasonable rules to govern such fractional registration. The allocation of motor vehicles to said new monthly intervals by this fractional registration shall be such as will result, in the judgment of the director, in a uniform distribution of the clerical work of registration throughout the year.

Vehicles operated after Jan. 1, 1959, for first time, registered for twelve-month period.

SEC. 4. Motor vehicles, other than those exempted by section 1 of this amendatory act, not previously registered in this state and operated upon the public highways of this state for the first time on or after January 1, 1959, shall be registered for a full twelve-month period commencing the first day of the month of operation.

Administrative regulations authorized.

SEC. 5. The director is empowered and authorized to make and execute all administrative regulations necessary to accomplish an enforcement of the provisions of this amendatory act.

Vetoed.

SEC. 6. Section 11, chapter 384, Laws of 1955 and RCW 46.16.060 are each amended to read as follows:
Except as otherwise specifically provided by law for the licensing of vehicles, there shall be paid and collected for each vehicle registration and licensing

period and upon each vehicle a license fee in the sum of five dollars: *Provided*, That the fee for licensing each house moving dollie which is used exclusively for moving buildings or homes on the highway under special permit as provided for in chapter 46.44, shall be twenty-five dollars.

Note: See also section 1, chapter 105, Laws of 1957.

SEC. 7. Section 2, chapter 89, Laws of 1955 and RCW 46.16.210 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) Upon receipt of the application and proper fee for original vehicle license, the director shall make a recheck of the application and in the event that there is any error in the application it may be returned to the county auditor or other agent to effectively secure the correction of such error, who shall return the same corrected to the director.

(2) Application for the renewal of a vehicle license shall be made to the director or his agents, including county auditors, by the registered owner on a form prescribed by the director. The application must be accompanied by the certificate of registration for the last registration period in which the vehicle was registered in Washington unless the applicant submits a preprinted application mailed from Olympia, and the payment of such license fees and excise tax as may be required by law. Such application shall be handled in the same manner and the fees transmitted to the state treasurer in the same manner as in the case of an original application. Any such application which upon validation becomes a renewal certificate need not have entered upon it the name of the lien holder, if any, of the vehicle concerned.

(3) An application for license, new or renewal, may not be filed prior to the first day of the registration licensing period for which the license is to be issued and if the application for renewal is not filed within thirty days after the expiration of the pre-

Vetoed

Vetoed

ceding licensing period, a penalty of three dollars shall be assessed and shall not under any condition be waived unless the applicant can furnish an affidavit certifying that the vehicle has not been operated on highways in this state while owned by him since the expiration date of the last license issued in this state, or that the vehicle has been stolen or embezzled: *Provided*, That this penalty shall not apply to vehicles that were at the time of expiration held for sale by a registered dealer and on which an application for renewal license is made by the purchaser at time of sale.

Note: See also section 5, chapter 273, Laws of 1957.

RCW 46.16.220 amended.

SEC. 8. Section 1, chapter 89, Laws of 1955 and RCW 46.16.220 are each amended to read as follows:

Time of issuance of licenses—Duration.

Vehicle licenses and vehicle license number plates may be issued for the current registration licensing period on and after the first day thereof and must be used and displayed from the date of issue or from the thirtieth day after the expiration of the preceding licensing period whichever date is later.

RCW 46.16.230 amended.

SEC. 9. Section 1, chapter 90, Laws of 1949 and RCW 46.16.230 are each amended to read as follows:

License plates to be furnished.

The director shall furnish to all persons making satisfactory application for vehicle license as provided by law, two identical vehicle license number plates each containing the vehicle license number to be displayed on such vehicle as by law required: *Provided*, That if the vehicle to be licensed is a trailer, semitrailer or motor cycle only one vehicle license number plate shall be issued for each thereof. The number and plate shall be of such size and color and shall contain such symbols indicative of the registration period for which the same is issued and of the state of Washington, as shall be determined and prescribed by the director. Any vehicle license number plate or plates issued to a dealer shall con-

Proviso.

tain thereon a sufficient and satisfactory indication that such plates have been issued to a dealer in vehicles. All vehicle license number plates shall be obtained by the director from the metal working plant of the state penitentiary at Walla Walla, if available therefrom.

License plates
to be fur-
nished.

Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions of this section, the director may, in his discretion and under such rules and regulations as he may prescribe, adopt a type of vehicle license number plates whereby the same shall be used as long as legible on the vehicle for which issued, with provision for tabs or emblems to be attached thereto or elsewhere on the vehicle to signify renewals, in which event the term "vehicle license number plate" as used in any enactment shall be deemed to include in addition to such plate the tab or emblem signifying renewal except when such plate contains the designation of the current year without reference to any tab or emblem. Renewals shall be effected by the issuance and display of such tab or emblem.

SEC. 10. Section 2, chapter 144, Laws of 1943 and RCW 82.44.020 are each amended to read as follows:

RCW 82.44.020
amended.

An excise tax is imposed for the privilege of using in the state any motor vehicle, except those operated under dealer's licenses. The annual amount of such excise shall be one and one-half percent of the fair market value of such vehicle: *Provided*, That in no case shall the tax be less than one dollar: *Provided further*, That during the period of changeover to the staggered system of registration of those motor vehicles as defined in section 1 of this amendatory act the excise tax may be computed and imposed for periods of less than one year sufficient to make the collection thereof coincide with the collection of license fees on such vehicles.

Basic tax
imposed.

Proviso.

Proviso.

SEC. 11. Section 25, chapter 139, Laws of 1955 and RCW 82.44.060 are each amended to read as follows:

The excise tax hereby imposed shall be due and payable to the county auditor at the time of registration of a motor vehicle. Whenever an application is made to the auditor for a license for a motor vehicle he shall collect, in addition to the amount of the license fee, the amount of the excise tax imposed by this chapter, and no dealer's license or license plates, and no license or license plates for a motor vehicle shall be issued unless such tax is paid in full. The excise tax hereby imposed shall be collected for each calendar year, except that in connection with the changeover to the staggered license system of registering of those motor vehicles as defined in section 1 of this amendatory act, computed and imposed for periods of less than one year sufficient to make the collection thereof coincide with the collection of license fees on such vehicles: *Provided*, That upon motor vehicles licensed for the first time in this state after March 31st of any year, except motor vehicles as defined in section 1 of this amendatory act, licensed under the staggered license system, the excise tax for such year shall be reduced by one-fourth thereof, upon vehicles licensed for the first time in this state after June 30th of any year the excise tax shall be reduced by one-half thereof and upon vehicles licensed for the first time in this state after September 30th of any year the excise tax shall be reduced by three-fourths thereof: *Provided further*, That the tax shall in no case be less than one dollar.

Vetoed.

No additional tax shall be imposed under this chapter upon any vehicle upon the transfer of ownership thereof if the tax imposed with respect to such vehicle has already been paid for the year

or fraction of a year in which transfer of ownership occurs.

No additional tax shall be imposed under this chapter upon any house trailer, if the tax imposed with respect to such house trailer has already been paid for the calendar year or fractional part thereof under RCW 82.50.030 and 82.50.070, and the receipt issued pursuant to chapter 82.50 shall be prima facie evidence of the payment of such tax. } Vetoed

Note: See also section 15, chapter 269, Laws of 1957.

Passed the House March 6, 1957.

Passed the Senate March 11, 1957.

Approved by the Governor March 26, 1957, with the exception of sections 6, 7, and 11, which are vetoed.

Note: Excerpt of Governor's veto message reads as follows:

"House Bill No. 254 establishes a system of staggered licenses for motor vehicles. Section 6 of House Bill No. 254 conflicts with House Bill No. 308 which I have previously signed into law. House Bill No. 308 increases the license fee for motor vehicles from \$5.00 to \$6.50. If I permitted section 6 of House Bill No. 254 to become law the license fee would be reduced to \$5.00.

"Section 7 of House Bill No. 254 contains a penalty provision for late registration of \$3.00. Section 5 of the omnibus highway bill, House Bill No. 643, which I have signed into law, eliminates this penalty provision for late registration.

"Section 11 of House Bill No. 254 sets forth certain requirements of excise taxes affecting among others house trailers. This act is in conflict with House Bill No. 458 which I have signed into law.

"Neither sections 6, 7 or 11 are essential to accomplish the main purpose of House Bill No. 254 and these sections conflict with other bills which have been signed into law. For the reasons indicated Sections 6, 7 and 11 are vetoed and the remainder of the bill is approved."

Veto message, excerpt from.