

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 629

91ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE BOUCHER.

Read 1st time February 1, 2001, and 1000 copies ordered printed.

TED WEDEL, Chief Clerk

1362L.011

AN ACT

To repeal sections 301.135, RSMo 2000, 301.130, as enacted by house committee substitute for senate substitute for senate bill no. 3 and senate bill no. 156, eighty-eighth general assembly, first regular session, and section 301.130, as enacted by conference committee substitute for house substitute for house committee substitute for senate substitute for senate bill no. 70, eighty-eighth general assembly, first regular session, relating to motor vehicle registration tabs, and to enact in lieu thereof two new sections relating to the same subject.

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

Section A. Sections 301.135, RSMo 2000, 301.130, as enacted by house committee
2 substitute for senate substitute for senate bill no. 3 and senate bill no. 156, eighty-eighth general
3 assembly, first regular session, and section 301.130, as enacted by conference committee
4 substitute for house substitute for house committee substitute for senate substitute for senate bill
5 no. 70, eighty-eighth general assembly, first regular session, are repealed and two new sections
6 enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 301.130 and 301.135, to read as follows:

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

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold faced brackets [thus] in this bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

10 license plates in preference to the words "Show-Me State" and special plates for
11 members of the national guard will have the "NATIONAL GUARD" wording in
12 preference to the words "Show-Me State".

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

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

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

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

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

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

53 301.140, when properly attached, shall be prima facie evidence that the required fees
54 have been paid.

55 8. (1) The director of revenue shall issue annually a tab or set of tabs as
56 evidence of the annual payment of registration fees and the current registration of a
57 vehicle in lieu of the set of plates; except that the director shall annually issue a new
58 license plate or set of plates as provided in this section for vehicles registered
59 pursuant to subsection 2 of section 301.277, commercial motor vehicles in excess of
60 twelve thousand pounds, trailers, buses and dealers.

61 (2) The vehicle owner to whom a tab or set of tabs is issued shall affix and
62 display such tab or tabs on the middle of the license plate, no more than one per plate.

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

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

68 (5) For those commercial motor vehicles registered pursuant to an agreement
69 under section 301.277, the plate issued by the director of revenue shall be a
70 permanent nonexpiring license plate for which no tabs shall be issued. Nothing in
71 this section shall relieve the owner of any vehicle permanently registered under this
72 section from the obligation to pay the annual registration fee due for the vehicle. The
73 permanent nonexpiring license plate shall be returned to the director of revenue upon
74 the sale or disposal of the vehicle by the owner to whom the permanent nonexpiring
75 license plate is issued, or the plate may be transferred to a replacement commercial
76 motor vehicle when the owner files a supplemental application with the Missouri
77 highway reciprocity commission for the registration of such replacement commercial
78 motor vehicle. Upon payment of the annual registration fee, the director of revenue
79 shall issue a certificate of registration or other suitable evidence of payment of the
80 annual fee, and such evidence of payment shall be carried at all times in the vehicle
81 for which it is issued.

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

92 9. The director of revenue may prescribe rules and regulations for the
93 effective administration of this section. No rule or portion of a rule promulgated
94 under the authority of this section shall become effective unless it has been
95 promulgated pursuant to the provisions of section 536.024, RSMo.]

301.130. 1. The director of revenue, upon receipt of a proper application for registration, required fees and any other information which may be required by law, shall issue to the applicant a certificate of registration in such manner and form as the director of revenue may prescribe and a set of license plates, or other evidence of registration, as provided in this section. Unless otherwise provided by law, each license plate or set of license plates issued, renewed or replaced on or after January 1, 1997, shall contain the following:

(1) The name or abbreviated name of this state;

(2) The words "Show-Me State";

(3) The month and year in which the registration shall expire;

(4) An arrangement of numbers or letters, or both, as shall be assigned from year to year by the director of revenue; and

(5) Fully reflective material with a common color scheme and design for each type of license plate issued under this chapter, which shall be designated by an advisory committee established in section 301.129. The license plates shall be clearly visible at night, and shall be aesthetically attractive. Except as otherwise provided in this section, in addition to all other fees required by law, applicants for registration of vehicles with license plates that expire between January 1, 1997, and December 31, 1997, applicants for registration of trailers or semitrailers with license plates that expire between January 1, 1997, and December 31, 1999, and applicants for registration of vehicles that are to be issued new license plates shall pay an additional fee of up to two dollars and twenty-five cents, based on the actual cost of the reissuance, to cover the cost of the fully reflective plates required by this subsection. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection 3 of section 301.067 to the contrary, every license plate for a trailer or semitrailer which is permanently registered under subsection 3 of section 301.067 shall be returned to the director of revenue between January 1, 1997, and December 31, 1997, and a license plate which conforms to the provisions of this subsection issued as a replacement plate upon the payment of a one dollar and fifteen cent fee per plate prescribed by this subdivision. The additional fee, based on the actual cost, prescribed by this subdivision shall only be one dollar and fifteen cents for issuance of one new plate for vehicles requiring only one license plate pursuant to subsection 5 or 7 of this section. The additional fee of two dollars and twenty-five cents prescribed in this subsection shall not be charged to persons receiving special license plates issued under section 301.073 or 301.443. The department of revenue shall adopt a program whereby all motor vehicle registrations renewed on or after January 1, 1997, will have replacement reflective plates issued for such registration prior to January 1, 2000. Special plates for qualified disabled veterans will have the "DISABLED VETERAN" wording on the license plates in preference to the words "Show-Me State" and special plates for members of the national guard will have the "NATIONAL GUARD" wording in preference to the words "Show-Me State". Veterans' plates

37 shall have a white background with a blue and red configuration at the discretion of the advisory
38 committee established in section 301.129.

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

41 3. The competitive bidding process used to select a vendor for the material to
42 manufacture the license plates shall consider the aesthetic appearance of the plates and the
43 reflective illumination capability for safety reasons. **The background of all license plates, or**
44 **the letters and numerals thereof, shall be coated with a material which will reflect the light**
45 **of other vehicles. The nature and specifications of this material shall be determined after**
46 **a public hearing by the director of revenue, director of prison industries, and**
47 **superintendent of the state highway patrol, and shall meet the standards established by the**
48 **state transportation department.** The advisory committee established in section 301.129 shall
49 adopt specifications for all reflective material. The competitive bidding request for proposal
50 shall contain a deduction in the amount of twenty-eight cents per plate from the cost of the
51 reflective sheeting. The committee may select graphic designs or any of the plate processes
52 approved on January 1, 1997.

53 4. Figures on license plates, except those which may be used to designate gross weights
54 for which commercial motor vehicles are registered, shall be of a size set by the advisory
55 committee established in section 301.129, **and not less than three inches in height and the**
56 **strokes thereof not less than five-sixteenths of an inch in width.** In the case of motorcycles,
57 motortricycles and trailers that are pulled by motorcycles or motortricycles, the letters and figures
58 shall be of a size set by the advisory committee, **and not less than one inch in height and the**
59 **strokes thereof one-eighth of an inch in width.** The **director and the** advisory committee may
60 provide for the arrangement of the numbers in groups or otherwise, and for other distinguishing
61 marks on the plates.

62 5. All property-carrying commercial motor vehicles to be registered at a gross weight in
63 excess of twelve thousand pounds, all passenger-carrying commercial motor vehicles, local
64 transit buses, school buses, trailers, semitrailers, motorcycles, motortricycles, motorscooters and
65 driveaway vehicles shall be registered with the director of revenue as provided for in subsection
66 3 of section 301.030, but only one license plate shall be issued for each such vehicle, except as
67 provided in this subsection. The applicant for registration of any property-carrying commercial
68 motor vehicle to be registered at a gross weight in excess of twelve thousand pounds or
69 passenger-carrying commercial motor vehicle may request and be issued two license plates for
70 such vehicle, and if such plates are issued, the director of revenue may assess and collect an
71 additional charge from the applicant in an amount not to exceed the fee prescribed for
72 personalized license plates in subsection 1 of section 301.144.

73 6. The plates issued to manufacturers and dealers shall bear the letter "D" preceding the
74 number, and **the director and** the advisory committee may require the placement upon the
75 plates other letters or marks to distinguish commercial motor vehicles and trailers and other types
76 of motor vehicles.

77 7. No motor vehicle or trailer shall be operated on any highway of this state unless it
78 shall have displayed thereon the license plate or set of license plates issued by the director of
79 revenue and authorized by section 301.140. Each such plate shall be securely fastened to the
80 motor vehicle in a manner so that all parts thereof shall be plainly visible and reasonably clean
81 so that the reflective qualities thereof are not impaired. License plates shall be fastened to all
82 motor vehicles except trucks, tractors, truck tractors or truck-tractors licensed in excess of twelve
83 thousand pounds on the front and rear of such vehicles not less than eight nor more than
84 forty-eight inches above the ground, with the letters and numbers thereon right side up. The
85 license plates on trailers, motorcycles, motortricycles and motorscooters shall be displayed on
86 the rear of such vehicles, with the letters and numbers thereon right side up. The license plate on
87 buses, other than school buses, and on trucks, tractors, truck tractors or truck-tractors licensed
88 in excess of twelve thousand pounds shall be displayed on the front of such vehicles not less than
89 eight nor more than forty-eight inches above the ground, with the letters and numbers thereon
90 right side up, or if two plates are issued for the vehicle pursuant to subsection 5 of this section,
91 displayed in the same manner on the front and rear of such vehicles. The license plate or plates
92 authorized by section 301.140, when properly attached, shall be prima facie evidence that the
93 required fees have been paid.

94 8. (1) The director of revenue shall issue annually a tab or set of tabs as evidence of the
95 annual payment of registration fees and the current registration of a vehicle in lieu of the set of
96 plates; **except that the director shall annually issue a new license plate or set of plates as**
97 **provided in this section for vehicles registered pursuant to subsection 2 of section 301.277,**
98 **commercial motor vehicles in excess of twelve thousand pounds, trailers, buses and dealers.**

99 (2) The vehicle owner to whom a tab or set of tabs is issued shall affix and display such
100 tab or tabs in the designated area of the license plate, no more than one per plate. **Beginning**
101 **January 1, 2002, for vehicle owners whose annual registration fees are set by section**
102 **301.055, the tabs issued annually by the director of revenue pursuant to subsection 1 of this**
103 **section shall be designed and manufactured so as to adhere to the inside of a motor**
104 **vehicle's windshield and to be visible from the exterior of the vehicle, and shall be affixed**
105 **by the vehicle owner to the interior side of the motor vehicle's windshield in the lower**
106 **corner on the driver's side. For all vehicle owners whose annual registration fees are set**
107 **by any section other than 301.055, the system of tab design and placement on the license**
108 **plate shall continue as it was on the date this section was enacted.**

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

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

113 (5) For those commercial motor vehicles registered pursuant to an agreement under
114 section 301.277, the plate issued by the director of revenue shall be a permanent nonexpiring
115 license plate for which no tabs shall be issued. Nothing in this section shall relieve the owner
116 of any vehicle permanently registered under this section from the obligation to pay the annual
117 registration fee due for the vehicle. The permanent nonexpiring license plate shall be returned
118 to the director of revenue upon the sale or disposal of the vehicle by the owner to whom the
119 permanent nonexpiring license plate is issued, or the plate may be transferred to a replacement
120 commercial motor vehicle when the owner files a supplemental application with the Missouri
121 highway reciprocity commission for the registration of such replacement commercial motor
122 vehicle. Upon payment of the annual registration fee, the director of revenue shall issue a
123 certificate of registration or other suitable evidence of payment of the annual fee, and such
124 evidence of payment shall be carried at all times in the vehicle for which it is issued.

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

134 9. The director of revenue may prescribe rules and regulations for the effective
135 administration of this section.

136 10. Any rule or portion of a rule promulgated pursuant to this section may be suspended
137 by the joint committee on administrative rules if after hearing thereon the committee finds that
138 such rule or portion of the rule is beyond or contrary to the statutory authority of the agency
139 which promulgated the rule, or is inconsistent with the legislative intent of the authorizing
140 statute. The general assembly may reinstate such rule by concurrent resolution signed by the
141 governor.

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, 2002,**
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.**