

HB 649-FN - AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE

01/07/2026 0039s

2025 SESSION

25-0198

11/08

HOUSE BILL

649-FN

AN ACT

relative to motor vehicle registration and registration fees pertaining to the rental fleet passenger vehicle registration program and motor vehicle inspections.

SPONSORS:

Rep. Granger, Straf. 2; Rep. Osborne, Rock. 2; Rep. Harvey-Bolia, Belk. 3; Rep. Sirois, Hills. 32; Rep. Sellers, Graf. 18; Rep. Sabourin, Rock. 30

COMMITTEE:

Transportation

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill makes various changes to how vehicles are registered in accordance with the rental fleet passenger vehicle registration program and requires motor vehicle dealers to provide a customer with a written statement concerning the vehicle's compliance with RSA 266 at the time of a sale.

Explanation:

Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.

Matter removed from current law appears [~~in brackets and struck through.~~]

Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty Five

AN ACT relative to motor vehicle registration and registration fees pertaining to the rental fleet passenger vehicle registration program and motor vehicle inspections.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 1 Off Highway Recreational Vehicles And Trails; Rental Fleet Passenger Vehicle Registration
2 Program. RSA 261:40-b is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

3 261:40-b Rental Fleet Passenger Vehicle Registration Program.

4 I. The division of motor vehicles shall establish a rental fleet registration program, whereby
5 a qualified registrant, according to paragraph II, may register 50 or more in-service rental passenger
6 vehicles as a fleet, elect a common annual expiration date for all vehicles in the fleet, receive
7 registration stickers for each vehicle in the fleet that shall be valid for 2 years, and pay registration
8 fees for each fleet vehicle based on the common 2-year expiration date and according to rates and
9 costs established in existing law.

10 II. The rental fleet registration program shall be solely for the registration of a fleet of 50 or
11 more in-service rental passenger vehicles. A rental car company intending to register such a fleet
12 shall submit a current New Hampshire certificate of good standing issued by the secretary of state's
13 office to the division of motor vehicles and receive the division's approval to enroll in the program.
14 Once enrolled in the program, a registrant shall submit a current certificate of good standing at the
15 time of payment of registration fees and costs. Additionally, the division may require a company
16 enrolled in the program to produce a current certificate of good standing at any time during the 2-
17 year period of registration. If a rental car company is not in good standing with the secretary of
18 state or fails to meet other enrollment criteria set by the division of motor vehicles, including
19 maintaining an in-service fleet of 50 or more vehicles, the division shall terminate the registrant's
20 fleet registration and revert any existing registration credentials to those of a non-fleet vehicle.

21 III. Upon initial registration of a fleet, and at least 60 days prior to the common 2-year
22 expiration date for the fleet, the registrant shall provide an itemized account of all motor vehicles in
23 the fleet in the manner required by the division.

24 IV. Any vehicle added to the fleet after the initial fleet registration shall receive a
25 registration sticker identical to those of the registered fleet and the registrant shall be required to
26 pay a prorated amount of registration fees and costs for the remainder of the year until the common
27 2-year expiration date. A registrant may transfer the registration of a permanently retired fleet
28 vehicle to a new in-service fleet vehicle for any remainder period of registration.

29 V. The director of the division of motor vehicles shall adopt rules pursuant to RSA 541-A
30 regarding enrollment and cancellation of enrollment.

1 VI. No later than 60 days after the effective date of this paragraph, the commissioner of the
2 department of safety shall make rules under RSA 541-A relative to the establishment and
3 administration of the rental fleet passenger vehicle program established in RSA 261:40-b.

4 2 New Paragraphs; Certificates of Title and Registration of Vehicles; Temporary Permit and
5 Plates Pending Registration. Amend RSA 261:56 by inserting after paragraph II the following new
6 paragraphs:

7 III. Notwithstanding paragraphs I and II, no dealer shall issue a temporary plate or
8 temporary registration certificate to any motor vehicle that fails to meet the requirements set forth
9 in RSA 266.

10 IV. The director shall adopt rules, pursuant to RSA 541-A, relative to the requirements
11 dealers must follow prior to issuing a temporary plate or temporary registration under this section.

12 3 Certificates of Title and Registration of Vehicles; Twenty-Day Registrations. Amend RSA
13 261:57, I to read as follows:

14 I. Any resident of this state who intends to purchase a vehicle in another state or from
15 another person or who is unable to register a vehicle because of limited hours of operation of the
16 town clerk in the town where the person resides may apply to the division or its substation or
17 authorized agent nearest his or her residence for a registration to drive said vehicle on the ways of
18 the state in an unregistered condition. Said resident shall appear in person at the division or
19 substation to obtain such registration and shall sign under penalty of perjury a statement that the
20 vehicle [~~meets all New Hampshire inspection requirements,~~] **is safe for operation upon the**
21 **highways pursuant to RSA 266** and, in the case of a person seeking an extension of his or her
22 registration, that he or she was unable to register the vehicle because of the limited hours of the
23 town clerk, before said registration may be issued. Said registration shall be valid for 20 days from
24 the time it is issued. Application blanks and permits in the form prescribed by the director shall be
25 designed, printed, and supplied to the substations by the division. The fee for the issuance of a
26 registration shall be \$20. It shall be unlawful for any person to drive a vehicle on the ways of the
27 state under a registration issued pursuant to this section unless said person has in his or her
28 possession a valid bill of sale for the vehicle he or she is driving, or in the case of a person whose
29 registration is extended, a copy of the form indicating he or she was unable to register because of the
30 limited hours of the town clerk. No person shall make application for a 20-day registration on the
31 same vehicle more than once within a 12-month period. Only 3 20-day registrations shall be issued
32 on the same vehicle within a 12-month period.

33 4 New Paragraph; Certificates of Title and Registration of Vehicles; Fees to be Collected.
34 Amend RSA 261:141 by inserting after paragraph VI the following new paragraph:

35 VI-a. If a vehicle is to be registered in accordance with RSA 261:40-b, the following shall
36 apply:

1 (a) If an original registration, the month in which the anniversary of the owner's birth
2 occurs will be one of the next 2 or 3 months, the fee shall be increased by 1/24 for each whole month
3 or part thereof remaining until the end of the month in which such anniversary will occur.

4 (b) If a vehicle has been previously registered pursuant to RSA 261:40-b, said vehicle
5 registration shall not be renewed for less than a 24 month fee, provided that the renewal registration
6 is effected within 24 months of the expiration of the registrant's last valid registration. If a vehicle
7 has been previously registered, and the owner of said vehicle fails to renew the vehicle registration
8 in the month said renewal was legally required to be made when said renewal is obtained within 24
9 months of the last valid registration, the 24 months renewal fees charged hereunder shall be
10 computed at the applicable mill rate which applied in the month when the vehicle should have been
11 legally registered. If the registration is renewed beyond the 24 months immediately succeeding the
12 last valid registration, the 24 months fee charged shall be computed at the mill rate applicable on
13 the date when any successive registration period would have begun, and the minimum fee in such
14 cases shall be for 24 months, except in those cases where the registrant can demonstrate to the
15 satisfaction of the director that the vehicle has not been operated since the expiration of the last
16 valid registration, in which case the registrant may register at the applicable mill rate on the date of
17 the registration.

18 5 New Paragraph; Certificates of Title and Registration of Vehicles; Fees for Registration
19 Permits. Amend RSA 261:153 by inserting after paragraph III the following new paragraph:

20 III-a. If a vehicle is to be registered in accordance with RSA 261:40-b, the following shall
21 apply:

22 (a) If the month in which the anniversary of the owner's birth occurs will be one of the
23 next 2 or 3 months, the permit fee shall be increased by 1/24 for each whole month or part thereof
24 remaining until the end of the month in which such anniversary will occur and the owner shall not
25 be required to obtain a permit for the next registration period.

26 (b) In all other cases for vehicles specified in RSA 261:40-b, the permit fee shall be
27 determined by multiplying 1/24 of the permit fee for the vehicle times the total number of whole
28 months and any part of a month remaining until the end of the month in which the anniversary of
29 the owner's birth occurs, and the owner shall be required to obtain a permit for the next registration
30 period.

31 6 Trade and Commerce; Sale of Unsafe Used Motor Vehicles; Inspections RSA 358-F:2 is
32 repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

33 358-F:2 Inspection.

34 I. Before selling to any customer any used motor vehicle, the dealer shall provide the
35 customer with one of the following written statements at the time of sale:

36 (a) If the dealer has conducted, or had conducted, an examination of the vehicle for
37 compliance with the equipment requirements of RSA 266, and the vehicle is found to be in

1 compliance, the dealer shall present to the customer at the time of sale a notice which states: "This
2 motor vehicle has been determined to be in compliance with the equipment requirements pursuant
3 to RSA 266."

4 (b) If the dealer has conducted, or had conducted, an examination of the vehicle for
5 compliance with the equipment requirements of RSA 266 and the vehicle is found not to be in
6 compliance, the dealer shall provide a statement which reads: "This motor vehicle has been
7 examined and determined not to be in compliance with the equipment requirements pursuant to
8 RSA 266. The following defects are identified."

9 (c) If the dealer has not conducted an examination of the vehicle for compliance with the
10 equipment requirements of RSA 266, the dealer shall provide a statement which reads: "No
11 examination has been conducted to determine whether this motor vehicle is in compliance with the
12 equipment requirements pursuant to RSA 266."

13 II. Each notice or statement provided under this section shall specify the date on which the
14 examination was conducted, if any, and the name of the person who performed it.

15 7 Trade and Commerce; Sale of Unsafe Used Motor Vehicles; Inspection; Remedy. Amend RSA
16 358-F:4 to read as follows:

17 358-F:4 Remedy. A failure of any dealer to comply with the provisions of this section, or a
18 concealment by any dealer of any defect which was discovered, or should have been discovered,
19 during the [~~inspection requested~~] **examination conducted** under RSA 358-F:2 is an unfair or
20 deceptive act or practice within the meaning of RSA 358-A:2. Any right or remedy set forth in RSA
21 358-A may be used to enforce the provisions of this chapter.

22 8 Effective Date. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

HB 649-FN- FISCAL NOTE
AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE (AMENDMENT #2026-0039s)

AN ACT relative to motor vehicle registration and registration fees pertaining to the rental fleet passenger vehicle registration program and motor vehicle inspections.

FISCAL IMPACT: This bill does not provide funding.

Estimated State Impact				
	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<i>Revenue Fund(s)</i>	None			
Expenditures*	\$0	\$45,000	\$0	\$0
<i>Funding Source(s)</i>	Restricted - Highway Fund Cost of Collections - Per the state constitution, costs associated with the collection/administration of highway fund revenue by the Department of Safety is deducted prior to funds being credited as unrestricted highway fund revenue			
Appropriations*	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<i>Funding Source(s)</i>	None			

*Expenditure = Cost of bill

*Appropriation = Authorized funding to cover cost of bill

Estimated Political Subdivision Impact				
	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
Local Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local Expenditures	\$0	Indeterminable		

METHODOLOGY:

This bill establishes a rental fleet passenger vehicle registration program administered by the Department of Safety, Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV), allowing qualified rental car companies with fleets of 50 or more in-service passenger vehicles to register vehicles as a fleet, elect a common two-year registration expiration date, and receive two-year registration stickers. Registration fees for fleet vehicles will be assessed in accordance with existing statutory rates and prorated as applicable. Additionally, the bill prohibits motor vehicle dealers from issuing temporary plates or temporary registrations for vehicles that do not meet the requirements set forth in RSA 266, and clarifies that applicants for 20-day registrations must certify the vehicle is safe for operation pursuant to RSA 266, rather than certifying compliance with all inspection requirements (the existing fee structure and issuance limits for 20-day registrations is maintained).

The Department assumes the implementation of the rental fleet passenger vehicle registration program and the associated rulemaking can be absorbed within existing DMV staffing and resources. Also, the Department states this bill is not expected to change overall registration fee revenue, as fees will continue to be collected in accordance with existing law, nor is it expected to result in a fiscal impact to state or municipal revenue or expenditures. Administrative changes related to temporary plates, temporary registrations, and 20-day registrations are assumed to clarify existing practice and do not result in additional costs.

The Department states DMV will be required to update the Motor Vehicle Application Processing (MAAP) system to accommodate the rental fleet passenger vehicle registration program, including but not limited to:

- Creation of a rental fleet designation;
- Ability to assign a common two-year expiration date across multiple vehicles;
- Proration of registration fees to the common expiration date; and
- Validation of fleet eligibility and enrollment status

The necessary changes would involve system programming, testing, and deployment, with estimated costs of approximately \$45,000 based on current vendor rates and established development timelines. In addition, municipalities that utilize third-party registration software certified to interface with MAAP will require corresponding software updates to ensure compatibility with the new rental fleet registration structure, expiration logic, and eligibility validation requirements. Third-party software vendors are required to certify their products with the DMV prior to deployment. Based on historical certification efforts, it is assumed that each vendor will incur costs associated with software development, testing, and DMV certification. These costs are borne by the vendors and municipalities and are not paid directly by the State.

The Department assumes this bill will have no impact on revenue.

AGENCIES CONTACTED:

Department of Safety