SENATE BILL NO. 384–SENATOR SHAFFER (BY REQUEST)

MARCH 17, 2003

Referred to Committee on Transportation

SUMMARY—Authorizes Department of Motor Vehicles to establish program to contract with persons to provide certain services otherwise required to be provided by Department. (BDR 43-1154)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No. Effect on the State: No.

3

5

10

11

12

13 14 -

EXPLANATION - Matter in bolded italics is new; matter between brackets [omitted material] is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to motor vehicles; authorizing the Department of Motor Vehicles to establish a program to contract with persons to provide certain services relating to the registration of motor vehicles otherwise required to be provided by the Department; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Chapter 482 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto the provisions set forth as sections 2 and 3 of this act.

Sec. 2. "Contracted agent" means a person who is authorized to register motor vehicles, issue certificates of registration and renew the registration of a motor vehicle pursuant to section 3 of this act. The term does not include a registered dealer, authorized inspection station, authorized station, a county assessor or other governmental agency.

Sec. 3. 1. Upon request, the Department may authorize a person to:

(a) Accept applications for the registration and renewal of registration of motor vehicles, and collect related fees and taxes;

(b) Issue certificates of registration to applicants who satisfy the requirements of this chapter; and



(c) Accept applications for the transfer of registration pursuant to NRS 482.399.

- 2. A person who is authorized to register motor vehicles, issue certificates of registration and renew the registration of a motor vehicle pursuant to subsection 1 shall:
- (a) Transmit the applications he receives to the Department within the period prescribed by the Department;
- (b) Except with respect to a fee authorized by subsection 3, transmit any fees or taxes he collects from the applicants and properly account for them within the period prescribed by the Department;
- (c) Comply with the regulations adopted pursuant to subsection 5;
- (d) Bear any cost of equipment which is necessary to issue certificates of registration or renew the registration of a motor vehicle, including any computer hardware or software; and
- (e) Provide for any fee, bond or insurance which is necessary to carry out the provisions of sections 2 and 3 of this act.
- 3. In addition to any fees or taxes collected pursuant to this section, a person who is authorized to register motor vehicles, issue certificates of registration and renew the registration of a motor vehicle pursuant to subsection 1 may charge and collect a fee for the performance of services pursuant to this section.
- 4. A person who is authorized to register motor vehicles, issue certificates of registration and renew the registration of a motor vehicle pursuant to subsection 1 may not receive compensation from the Department for the performance of services pursuant to this section.
- 5. The Director shall adopt such regulations as the Director determines are necessary to carry out the provisions of this section.
 - **Sec. 4.** NRS 482.010 is hereby amended to read as follows:
 - 482.010 As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires, the words and terms defined in NRS 482.011 to 482.137, inclusive, *and section 2 of this act*, have the meanings ascribed to them in those sections.
 - **Sec. 5.** NRS 482.160 is hereby amended to read as follows:
 - 482.160 1. The Director may adopt and enforce such administrative regulations as are necessary to carry out the provisions of this chapter.
 - 2. The Director may establish branch offices as provided in NRS 481.055, and may by contract appoint any person or public agency as an agent to assist in carrying out the duties of the Department pursuant to this chapter. The Director may designate the county assessor of any county as agent to assist in carrying out



the duties of the Department in that county. The county assessor may, under an agreement with the Department made pursuant to this subsection, transfer his duties as agent to the Department where the Department has established a branch office, consisting of full-time employees, in his county.

- 3. Except as otherwise provided in [this subsection,] subsection 4 or 5, the contract with each agent appointed by the Department in connection with the registration of motor vehicles and issuance of license plates must provide for compensation based upon the reasonable value of the services of the agent but must not exceed \$2 for each registration.
- **4.** An authorized inspection station or authorized station that issues certificates of registration pursuant to NRS 482.281 is not entitled to receive compensation from the Department pursuant to [this subsection.] subsection 3.
- 5. A contracted agent that issues certificates of registration pursuant to section 3 of this act is not entitled to receive compensation from the Department pursuant to subsection 3.

Sec. 6. NRS 482.175 is hereby amended to read as follows:

482.175 The Department and the officers and deputies thereof, [and] registered dealers and contracted agents shall examine and to the best of their ability determine the genuineness and regularity of every registration and transfer of registration of a vehicle as provided in this chapter, in order that every certificate issued for a vehicle must contain true statements of the ownership thereof, and to prevent the registration of a vehicle by any person not entitled thereto. The Department , [or] a registered dealer or contracted agent may require any applicant to furnish such information in addition to that contained in the application as may be necessary to satisfy the Department of the truth and regularity of the application.

Sec. 7. NRS 482.205 is hereby amended to read as follows:

482.205 Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, every owner of a motor vehicle, trailer or semitrailer intended to be operated upon any highway in this state shall, before the motor vehicle, trailer or semitrailer can be operated, apply to the Department, [or] a registered dealer or contracted agent for and obtain the registration thereof.

Sec. 8. NRS 482.206 is hereby amended to read as follows:

482.206 1. Except as otherwise provided in this section, every motor vehicle, except for a motor vehicle that is registered pursuant to the provisions of NRS 706.801 to 706.861, inclusive, or which is a motor vehicle with a declared gross weight in excess of 26,000 pounds, must be registered for a period of 12 consecutive months beginning the day after the first registration by the owner in this state.



- 2. Every vehicle registered by an agent of the Department, [or] a registered dealer *or contracted agent* must be registered for 12 consecutive months beginning the first day of the month after the first registration by the owner in this state.
- 3. Upon the application of the owner of a fleet of vehicles, the Director may permit him to register his fleet on the basis of a calendar year.
- 4. When the registration of any vehicle is transferred pursuant to the provisions of NRS 482.3667 [, 482.379] or 482.399, the expiration date of each regular license plate, special license plate or substitute decal must, at the time of the transfer of registration, be advanced for a period of 12 consecutive months beginning:
- (a) The first day of the month after the transfer, if the vehicle is transferred by an agent of the Department; or
- (b) The day after the transfer in all other cases, and a credit on the portion of the fee for registration and the governmental services tax attributable to the remainder of the current period of registration allowed pursuant to the applicable provisions of NRS 482.3667 [, 482.379] and 482.399.
 - **Sec. 9.** NRS 482.215 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 482.215 1. All applications for registration, except applications for renewal of registration, must be made as provided in this section.
- 2. Except as otherwise provided in NRS 482.294, applications for all registrations, except renewals of registration, must be made in person, if practicable, to any office or agent of the Department, for tolar a registered dealer [...] or contracted agent.
- 3. Each application must be made upon the appropriate form furnished by the Department and contain:
- (a) The signature of the owner, except as otherwise provided in subsection 2 of NRS 482.294, if applicable.
 - (b) His residential address.

- (c) His declaration of the county where he intends the vehicle to be based, unless the vehicle is deemed to have no base. The Department shall use this declaration to determine the county to which the governmental services tax is to be paid.
- (d) A brief description of the vehicle to be registered, including the name of the maker, the engine, identification or serial number, whether new or used, and the last license number, if known, and the state in which it was issued, and upon the registration of a new vehicle, the date of sale by the manufacturer or franchised and licensed dealer in this state for the make to be registered to the person first purchasing or operating the vehicle.
- (e) Proof satisfactory to the Department, [or] registered dealer or contracted agent that the applicant has provided the insurance



required by NRS 485.185 and, except as otherwise provided in this paragraph, his signed declaration that he will maintain the insurance during the period of registration. If the application is submitted by electronic means pursuant to NRS 482.294, the applicant is not required to sign the declaration required by this paragraph.

- (f) If the insurance is provided by a contract of insurance, evidence of that insurance provided by the insurer in the form of:
- (1) A certificate of insurance on a form approved by the Commissioner of Insurance; or
- (2) A card issued pursuant to NRS 690B.023 which identifies the vehicle and indicates, at the time of application for registration, coverage which meets the requirements of NRS 485.185.
- The Department may file that evidence, return it to the applicant or otherwise dispose of it.
- (g) If required, evidence of the applicant's compliance with controls over emission.
- 4. The application must contain such other information as is required by the Department, [or] registered dealer [...] or contracted agent and must be accompanied by proof of ownership satisfactory to the Department.
- 5. For purposes of the proof, declaration and evidence required by paragraphs (e) and (f) of subsection 3:
- (a) Vehicles which are subject to the fee for a license and the requirements of registration of the Interstate Highway User Fee Apportionment Act, and which are based in this state, may be declared as a fleet by the registered owner thereof, on his original application for or application for renewal of a proportional registration. The owner may file a single certificate of insurance covering that fleet.
- (b) Other fleets composed of 10 or more vehicles based in this state or vehicles insured under a blanket policy which does not identify individual vehicles may each be declared annually as a fleet by the registered owner thereof for the purposes of an application for his original or any renewed registration. The owner may file a single certificate of insurance covering that fleet.
- (c) A person who qualifies as a self-insurer pursuant to the provisions of NRS 485.380 may file a copy of his certificate of self-insurance
- (d) A person who qualifies for an operator's policy of liability insurance pursuant to the provisions of NRS 485.186 and 485.3091 may file evidence of that insurance.
- **Sec. 10.** NRS 482.230 is hereby amended to read as follows: 482.230 The Department, [or] a registered dealer or contracted agent shall not grant an application for the registration of
- 45 a vehicle in any of the following events:



1. When the applicant [therefor] is not entitled [thereto] to register the vehicle pursuant to the provisions of this chapter.

- 2. When the applicant has neglected or refused to furnish the Department, [or] registered dealer or contracted agent with the information required in the appropriate official form or reasonable additional information required by the Department, [or] registered dealer [-] or contracted agent.
- 3. When the fees required [therefor] by law for the registration of the vehicle have not been paid.
 - Sec. 11. NRS 482.235 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 482.235 1. The Department shall file each application received and register the vehicle therein described and the owner thereof in suitable books or on index cards as follows:
- (a) Under a distinctive registration number assigned to the vehicle and to the owner thereof, referred to in this chapter as the registration number.
 - (b) Alphabetically under the legal name of the owner.
- (c) Numerically under the serial or vehicle identification number of the vehicle or a permanent identifying number, as may be determined by the Department.
- 2. A registered dealer *or contracted agent* who registers a vehicle shall assign a registration number for that vehicle according to a list of registration numbers issued by the Department for use by that *registered* dealer [-] *or contracted agent*.
 - **Sec. 12.** NRS 482.240 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 482.240 1. Upon a registration of a vehicle, the Department, [or] a registered dealer *or contracted agent* shall issue a certificate of registration to the owner.
- 2. When an applicant for registration or transfer of registration is unable, for any reason, to submit to the Department in support of the application for registration, or transfer of registration, such documentary evidence of legal ownership as, in the opinion of the Department, is sufficient to establish the legal ownership of the vehicle concerned in the application for registration or transfer of registration, the Department may issue to the applicant only a certificate of registration.
- 3. The Department may, upon proof of ownership satisfactory to it, issue a certificate of ownership before the registration of the vehicle concerned. The certificate of registration issued pursuant to this chapter is valid only during the registration period or calendar year for which it is issued, and a certificate of ownership is valid until cancelled by the Department upon the transfer of interest therein.



- **Sec. 13.** NRS 482.260 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 482.260 1. When registering a vehicle, the Department and its agents or a registered dealer *or contracted agent* shall:
- (a) Collect the fees for license plates and registration as provided for in this chapter.
- (b) Collect the governmental services tax on the vehicle, as agent for the county where the applicant intends to base the vehicle for the period of registration, unless the vehicle is deemed to have no base.
- (c) Collect the applicable taxes imposed pursuant to chapters 372, 374, 377 and 377A of NRS.
 - (d) Issue a certificate of registration.

1 2

- (e) If the registration is performed by the Department [...] or a contracted agent issue the regular license plate or plates.
- (f) If the registration is performed by a registered dealer, provide information to the owner regarding the manner in which the regular license plate or plates will be made available to him.
- 2. Upon proof of ownership satisfactory to the Director, he shall cause to be issued a certificate of ownership as provided in this chapter.
- 3. Every vehicle being registered for the first time in Nevada must be taxed for the purposes of the governmental services tax for a 12-month period.
- 4. The Department shall deduct and withhold 2 percent of the taxes collected pursuant to paragraph (c) of subsection 1 and remit the remainder to the Department of Taxation.
- 5. A registered dealer shall forward all fees and taxes collected for the registration of vehicles to the Department.
- 6. Except with respect to a fee authorized by subsection 3 of section 3 of this act, a contracted agent shall transmit all fees and taxes collected for the registration of vehicles to the Department, as required pursuant to paragraph (b) of subsection 2 of that section.
 - **Sec. 14.** NRS 482.280 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 482.280 1. The registration of every vehicle expires at midnight on the day specified on the receipt of registration, unless the day specified falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday. If the day specified on the receipt of registration is a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday, the registration of the vehicle expires at midnight on the next judicial day. The Department shall mail to each holder of a certificate of registration an application for renewal of registration for the following period of registration. The applications must be mailed by the Department in sufficient time to allow all applicants to mail the applications to the Department and to receive new certificates of registration and license plates, stickers, tabs or other



suitable devices by mail before the expiration of their registrations. An applicant may present or submit the application to any agent or office of the Department ... or a contracted agent.

2. An application:

- (a) Mailed or presented to the Department or to a county assessor pursuant to the provisions of this section;
 - (b) Submitted to the Department pursuant to NRS 482.294; [or]
- (c) Presented to an authorized inspection station or authorized station pursuant to the provisions of NRS 482.281 [,]; or
- (d) Presented to a contracted agent pursuant to the provisions of section 3 of this act,

must include, if required, evidence of compliance with standards for control of emissions.

- 3. The Department shall insert in each application mailed pursuant to subsection 1:
- (a) The amount of the governmental services tax to be collected for the county pursuant to the provisions of NRS 482.260.
- (b) The amount set forth in a notice of nonpayment filed with the Department by a local authority pursuant to NRS 484.444.
- (c) A statement which informs the applicant that, pursuant to NRS 485.185, he is legally required to maintain insurance during the period in which the motor vehicle is registered.
- 4. An owner who has made proper application for renewal of registration before the expiration of the current registration but who has not received the license plate or plates or card of registration for the ensuing period of registration is entitled to operate or permit the operation of that vehicle upon the highways upon displaying thereon the license plate or plates issued for the preceding period of registration for such a time as may be prescribed by the Department as it may find necessary for the issuance of the new plate or plates or card of registration.
- **Sec. 15.** NRS 482.2805 is hereby amended to read as follows: 482.2805 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 3, the Department *or a contracted agent* shall not renew the registration of a motor vehicle if a local authority has filed with the Department a notice of nonpayment pursuant to NRS 484.444 unless, at the time for renewal of the registration, the registered owner of the motor vehicle provides to the Department *or contracted agent* a receipt issued by the local authority pursuant to NRS 482.2807.
- 2. If the registered owner provides a receipt to the Department *or contracted agent* pursuant to subsection 1 and complies with the other requirements of this chapter, the Department *or contracted agent* shall renew the registration of the motor vehicle.



3. The Department *or contracted agent* shall renew the registration of a motor vehicle owned by a short-term lessor for which the Department has received a notice of nonpayment pursuant to NRS 484.444 without requiring the short-term lessor to provide a receipt pursuant to subsection 1 if the short-term lessor submits to the Department *or contracted agent* a certificate issued by a local authority pursuant to subsection 4.

- 4. A local authority shall, upon request, issue to a short-term lessor a certificate which requires the Department *or contracted agent* to renew the registration of a motor vehicle owned by the short-term lessor without requiring the short-term lessor to provide a receipt pursuant to subsection 1 if the short-term lessor provides the local authority with the name, address and number of the driver's license of the short-term lessee who was leasing the vehicle at the time of the violation.
- 5. Upon the request of the registered owner of a motor vehicle, the Department shall provide a copy of the notice of nonpayment filed with the Department by the local agency pursuant to NRS 484.444.
- 6. If the registration of a motor vehicle that is identified in a notice of nonpayment filed with the Department by a local authority pursuant to NRS 484.444 is not renewed for two consecutive periods of registration, the Department shall delete any records maintained by the Department concerning that notice.
- 7. The Department may require a local authority to pay a fee for the creation, maintenance or revision of a record of the Department concerning a notice of nonpayment filed with the Department by the local authority pursuant to NRS 484.444. The Department shall, by regulation, establish any fee required by this subsection. Any fees collected by the Department pursuant to this subsection must be:
- (a) Deposited with the State Treasurer for credit to the Motor Vehicle Fund; and
- (b) Allocated to the Department to defray the cost of carrying out the provisions of this section.
 - **Sec. 16.** NRS 482.285 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 482.285 1. If any certificate of registration or certificate of ownership is lost, mutilated or illegible, the person to whom it was issued shall immediately make application for and obtain a duplicate or substitute therefor upon furnishing information satisfactory to the Department and upon payment of the required fees.
- 2. If any license plate or plates or any decal is lost, mutilated or illegible, the person to whom it was issued shall immediately make application for and obtain a duplicate or substitute therefor upon:
 - (a) Furnishing information satisfactory to the Department; and



(b) Payment of the fees required by NRS 482.500.

1 2

3

4

7

10

11

12

13

15

16

17

18

19 20

21

23

24 25

26

27

28

29 30

33

34 35

36 37

38

39

40

41

42

43

- 3. The Department *or a contracted agent* shall issue duplicate or substitute plates if the applicant:
- (a) Returns the mutilated or illegible plates to the Department *or contracted agent* or certifies under oath that the plates were lost or stolen; and
- (b) Makes application for renewal of registration. Credit must be allowed for the portion of the registration fee and governmental services tax attributable to the remainder of the current registration period.

Sec. 17. NRS 482.292 is hereby amended to read as follows:

482.292 As used in this section and NRS 482.293 and 482.294, unless the context otherwise requires, "document" means an application, notice, report, statement or other record relating to the issuance or renewal of a certificate of registration, or the issuance of a certificate of ownership pursuant to this chapter by financial institutions, new vehicle dealers, [and] used vehicle dealers and contracted agents on behalf of their customers.

Sec. 18. NRS 482.295 is hereby amended to read as follows:

482.295 The Department, [or] a registered dealer [shall] or contracted agent may not register a vehicle intended to be leased by a short-term lessor until the owner demonstrates to the Department his financial ability to respond to damages by providing evidence of insurance as that term is defined in NRS 485.034.

Sec. 19. NRS 482.399 is hereby amended to read as follows:

482.399 1. Upon the transfer of the ownership of or interest in any vehicle by any holder of a valid registration, or upon destruction of the vehicle, the registration expires.

2. The holder of the original registration may transfer the registration to another vehicle to be registered by him and use the same license plate or plates thereon, if the license plate or plates are appropriate for the second vehicle, upon filing an application for transfer of registration and upon paying the transfer registration fee and the excess, if any, of the registration fee and governmental services tax on the vehicle to which the registration is transferred over the total registration fee and governmental services tax paid on all vehicles from which he is transferring his ownership or interest. Except as otherwise provided in NRS 482.294, an application for transfer of registration must be made in person, if practicable, to any office or agent of the Department, [or to] a registered dealer [,] or contracted agent, and the license plate or plates may not be used upon a second vehicle until registration of that vehicle is complete. In computing the governmental services tax, the Department, its agent, [or] the registered dealer or contracted agent shall credit the portion of the tax paid on the first vehicle attributable to the



remainder of the current registration period or calendar year on a pro rata monthly basis against the tax due on the second vehicle or on any other vehicle of which the person is the registered owner. If any person transfers his ownership or interest in two or more vehicles, the Department, [or] the registered dealer or contracted agent shall credit the portion of the tax paid on all of the vehicles attributable to the remainder of the current registration period or calendar year on a pro rata monthly basis against the tax due on the vehicle to which the registration is transferred or on any other vehicle of which the person is the registered owner. The certificates of registration and unused license plates of the vehicles from which a person transfers his ownership or interest must be submitted before credit is given against the tax due on the vehicle to which the registration is transferred or on any other vehicle of which the person is the registered owner.

- 3. In computing the registration fee, the Department or its agent, [or] the registered dealer or contracted agent shall credit the portion of the registration fee paid on each vehicle attributable to the remainder of the current calendar year or registration period on a pro rata basis against the registration fee due on the vehicle to which registration is transferred. If the amount owed on the registration fee or governmental services tax on that vehicle is less than the credit on the total registration fee or governmental services tax paid on all vehicles from which a person transfers his ownership or interest, the Department shall issue to the person a refund in an amount equal to the difference between the amount owed on the registration fee or governmental services tax on that vehicle and the credit on the total registration fee or governmental services tax paid on all vehicles from which a person transfers his ownership or interest.
- 4. If the license plate or plates are not appropriate for the second vehicle, the plate or plates must be surrendered to the Department, [or] registered dealer or contracted agent and an appropriate plate or plates must be issued by the Department. The Department shall not reissue the surrendered plate or plates until the next succeeding licensing period.
- 5. If application for transfer of registration is not made within 60 days after the destruction or transfer of ownership of or interest in any vehicle, the license plate or plates must be surrendered to the Department on or before the 60th day for cancellation of the registration.
- 6. If a person cancels his registration and surrenders to the Department his license plates for a vehicle, the Department shall issue to the person a refund of the portion of the registration fee and governmental services tax paid on the vehicle attributable to the



- remainder of the current calendar year or registration period on a pro rata basis.

 Sec. 20. This act becomes effective on July 1, 2003.
- 1 2 3



