

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
MONTANA STATE SENATE

February 22, 1977

The fourteenth meeting of the Highways and Transportation Committee was called to order by Chairman Manning on the above date in Room 404 of the State Capitol Building at 9:30 a.m.

ROLL CALL: Senator Etchart was excused; Senator Healy was absent. All other members were present.

Those present to testify included the following:

Larry Huss
Gerald F. Raunig

Montana Auto Dealers Association
" " " "

CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE BILL 364: Representative Bud Gould of district 98, chief sponsor of the bill, testified that this was a simple bill that was meant to help those who need the use of wheel chairs. This problem first came to his attention when Sylvia Stevens, Miss Wheel Chair of Montana, contacted him with information about other states that had special parking permits for the handicapped. Bob Person of the Legislative Council had suggested that instead of having a special plate for the handicapped, a card like the one used for Legislative parking could be used. That way the handicapped person could take the card with him when his vehicle was used by a non-handicapped person.

Representative Gould noted that Missoula already has handicapped parking permits, but a common designation is needed for the whole state. Representative Gould clarified that this bill would not allow free parking in downtown areas, but only in public places. There is no provision for penalties in this act as no other state had penalties in similar laws. Representative Gould stated that handicapped persons know the problems of other handicapped persons, so there would likely be no abuse of this privilege.

Senator Aber asked if the person would purchase the regular license and then pay an extra dollar for the sticker. Representative Gould answered yes, that was the way it would work.

Senator Smith asked if it would be better to have these permits expire with the license on the vehicle instead of December 31 of each year. Representative Gould deferred to Bob Person. Mr. Person commented that this provision was modeled after Nevada and there would probably be no problems in changing that to the anniversary date. Senator Lockrem noted that Dec. 31 expiration would be an inconvenience to the permanently handicapped. Representative Gould suggested that perhaps it would be possible to have it expire one year after the date of issue.

February 22, 1977

Senator Graham asked how many would be affected by this bill. Representative Gould responded that it was tough to say. There is more information on the blind who total 2500 in Montana, but the wheel chair persons would probably be double or triple the number of blind.

Senator Hager asked if the bill would allow permits for vehicles that would be considered commercial vehicles. Representative Gould answered that this bill only applies to parking near public buildings and you wouldn't find the egg man needing a permit for the public buildings.

Senator Hager asked if a van would be ruled out. Representative Gould answered that a van would not be considered a commercial vehicle. Bob Person commented that he hadn't looked into the possibility of getting permits for commercial vehicles. The idea is that there would be the possibility of a handicapped person getting lots of permits for commercial vehicles. Volunteer places are set aside for special problems.

CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE BILL 125: Representative Steve Waldron, chief sponsor of the bill, testified that this bill would increase the grace period on transferring a title from 10 days to 20 days. It provides for fixed fees instead of the graduated fee penalty. It also increases the dealer time to get the forms to the Court House from 3 to 4 working days. Part of the problem right now is that the law says three days, so the dealer is often late on the weekends. Four working days would solve the problem. The 20 day provision also makes sense in that it is difficult for some people to get into town in 10 days to transfer the title.

Representative Waldron said that he had written to all of the county treasurers concerning this problem and this suggested solution. He submitted a copy of all of the answers received to the committee. (See Attached #1) There was general agreement that there was a problem with the 10 day grace period and that it should be increased to 15. With increased time to the dealer, the 20 day limit sounded the best.

Representative Waldron commented that the flat fee was better than the graduated fee because it was confusing to new clerks.

Senator Graham asked if a person could get more stickers for their window if there were some problem and the grace period had expired. Mr. Raunig of the Montana Auto Dealers Association answered that only one sticker was allowed, but if the paper work was slow, for \$5 a 60 day permit could be issued. Senator Graham asked if that was not issued to begin with could the person go back to get the 60 day permit. Mr. Raunig answered yes, he could.

CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE BILL 266: Representative Tropila, chief sponsor of the bill, testified that this bill would require a manufacturers' statement of origin on all new cars. Forty one states now have such a requirement. This bill would facilitate the sale of new cars to states around us that have this requirement.

February 22, 1977

Mr. Gerald Raunig of the Montana Auto Dealers Association explained that the bill operated in this manner: 1) the manufacturers' statement of origin (MSO) is supplied by the factory where it is required by law or when a state that does not require an MSO sends a car to another state that does (Montana is surrounded by states with the MSO requirement except Idaho. That creates problems for the fringe areas of the state that sell into the other states. It causes a delay in the paperwork. Finance companies will not finance a car until all of the paperwork is completed.); 2) this bill will limit new motor vehicle licensing to those cars that are truly new and will eliminate the passing off of used cars as new cars.

Senator Graham asked about a problem that he had in Utah when he purchased a new unit there and brought it back to Montana. The County Treasurer would not license the unit because it had been sold to someone else - the dealer - and once a car changes hands, it is considered a used car. Mr. Raunig said that Senator Graham's example was probably peculiar to Utah. In Montana if a car is used as a demonstrator, it is still sold as a new car for the benefit of the new car tax. This bill would simplify that process because the MSO would certify that that car had been owned by no one but the dealer.

DISCUSSION OF SENATE BILL 440: Senator Hazelbaker explained to Senator Graham who was absent for the hearing that SB 440 would set up a different agency, a Department of Transportation. The PSC would be confined to those areas that affect utilities only. The PSC transportation responsibilities would be transferred to the DOT. Senator Hazelbaker commented that the concept appeals to him because of the PSC's laxity in taking care of their business.

Senator Graham asked how the administration of the DOT was set up. Senator Bergren answered that it would be under an administration set up by a board. The Department of Highways and all other departments dealing with transportation would be under the DOT.

Senator Graham asked if there would be one person appointed by the Governor to run the department or if there would be several. Senator Hazelbaker referred to page 4, section 4, line 7 where it says the director of the DOT would be appointed by the Governor. Senator Graham commented that there would have to be directors for each area in addition to the one person over the entire department.

Chairman Manning commented that the bill came to the committee on Thursday and that nobody seemed to favor or not favor the bill. Chairman Manning said that he could see it setting up lots of waves and was therefore afraid of it. He questioned whether it was really essential.

Senator Hazelbaker said that Senator Fasbender had started the research on this bill over the interim. His concern had been that the bill might jeopardize the relationship between the Department of Highways and the federal government, but Mr. Beck assured the committee that that would not happen. The Motor Carriers favor the bill, the Aeronautics people took no stand, the Railroad Brotherhood had no problems with it.

February 22, 1977

The testimony of Delano for the Railroads indicated that he hadn't heard back yet; the PSC had no stand, but Bollinger agreed that the planning for transportation must be done in Montana; Mr. Huss said that the motor carriers were put on the back burner by the PSC. All in all it might not hurt to hear the bill on the floor.

Senator Smith moved that the bill be amended according to the amendments that Mr. Person had worked up in conjunction with Senator Fasbender. (See Attached #2) The handout explains all of the reasons behind the various amendments. Senator Bergren seconded the motion.

Senator Aber commented that the Aeronautics people seemed to be upset about the bill but had no hard reasons for opposing it.

The motion to amend carried unanimously with Senators Healy and Etchart absent.

Senator Hager commented that Senator Fasbender had distributed a packet concerning SB 440. Senator Graham said that he had looked at the packet material, but that this was such a big change that he thought it needed an interim study. The Department of Highways is functioning well now and it doesn't make sense to upset that unless a study would prove that the DOT would be the best way to go.

Senator Aber commented that we should treat this like Reorganization was treated. Each area that would be affected by the proposed change should be brought in for a day, amendments worked out to everyone's satisfaction, and finally passing on the whole bill. Senator Aber said that it was really not fair to act on something as major as this without a thorough look at the effects and the people involved.

Senator Smith commented that Senator Fasbender had been on the Transportation Committee for the last three or four years and that they had done an indepth study on the matter. Senator Smith noted that he leaned toward Senator Graham's position, but that SB 440 was a positive approach to the problems.

Senator Hazelbaker added that this was not a new concept as lots of states have Departments of Transportation.

Chairman Manning asked where the state was hurting that it needed to adopt this measure so fast at the end of a session. Senator Smith answered that we don't have to be in a hurry, but coordination between the various transportation modes and economics demand that we take action.

Senator Aber asked why the bill came in so late. Bob Person said that John Hollow, a council attorney, began work on this in November but that it was a major drafting task. He had meetings with other people, redrafted, had more meetings, redrafted. Senator Hazelbaker asked if he had met with some of the departments involved. Bob Person said that he was not sure how many had been contacted, but that he had involved some of the departments. The Highway Department thinks that the effective date is too soon.

February 22, 1977

Senator Smith asked the Chairman for his feeling on the bill. Chairman Manning commented that he felt it was too sweeping a change to recommend favorably now. Senator Smith said that he would like to see it get to the floor, preferably without recommendation.

Senator Graham remarked that it might sound good, but it has too sweeping of ramifications to pass it now. The bigger the department, the more unwieldy it becomes. The Director of the Department of Highways is able to keep his thumb on the whole situation now.

Senator Hazelbaker said that he would like to give Senator Fasbender his day in court on the floor, but would prefer that the bill be reported out without recommendation, as he too had some reservations about it. Senator Hazelbaker moved to defer action. Senator Aber seconded the motion. The committee voted unanimously to defer action with Senators Healy and Etchart absent.

DISPOSITION OF HOUSE BILL 364: Senator Hazelbaker moved that HB 364 be concurred in. Senator Hager seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with Senators Lockrem, Healy and Etchart absent.

DISPOSITION OF HOUSE BILL 125: Senator Aber moved that HB 125 be concurred in. Senator Hazelbaker seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with Senators Lockrem, Healy and Etchart absent. Senator Graham will carry the bill on the floor.

DISPOSITION OF HOUSE BILL 276: Senator Aber moved that HB 276 be concurred in. Senator Smith seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with Senators Lockrem, Etchart and Healy absent. Senator Aber will carry the bill on the floor.

Senator Smith asked that the committee reports be held in committee until later in the week. The Chairman said that he would do so.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m.



DAVE MANNING, CHAIRMAN

SENATE Highways? Transpo. COMMITTEE

BILL HB 125, 364, 276

VISITORS' REGISTER

DATE 3/22

[illegible]

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

February 22 1977

MR. President

We, your committee on HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION

having had under consideration HOUSE Bill No. 276

Respectfully report as follows: That HOUSE Bill No. 276

BE CONCURRED IN
DO PASS

BM

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

February 22

1977

MR. President

We, your committee on HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION

having had under consideration HOUSE Bill No. 125

Respectfully report as follows: That HOUSE Bill No. 125

BE CONCURRED IN
DO PASA



STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

February 22

1977

MR. President

We, your committee on HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION

having had under consideration HOUSE Bill No. 364

Respectfully report as follows: That HOUSE Bill No. 364

BE CONCURRED IN
DO PASS

DM

OFFICE OF
County Treasurer
BEAVERHEAD COUNTY
DILLON, MONTANA

Jan. 17, 1977

Rep. Steve Waldron
District #97
Capitol Station
Helena, Mt. 59601

Dear Sirs:

Dealers in our community are very lax about getting papers to us in the three days. Many times we have to call them when the customer comes in.

Out of town buyers are rarely within the 10 day period due to bank loans and mail.

I think that the present fee is extreme and that a \$15.00 flat fee would be better. Also, with the mail problems, I think the 20 day proposed grace period would be better due to the fact of payrolls etc.

Yours truly

Clois E. Haerning
Beaverhead County Treasurer

JOHN H. STEPHENS
Commissioner
MERLE THORSTAD
Commissioner
GEORGE H. GREEN
Commissioner
LUCILLE T. OEHMCKE
Clerk and Recorder
ORVAL B. SEVERSON
Treasurer
NORMA FINCH
Assessor



B. W. THOMAS
District Judge
ELEANOR FELTON
Clerk of Court
WILLIAM M. SOLEM
County Attorney
MURDO MacLEAN
Sheriff and Public Administrator
MARGARET C. MURPHY
Superintendent of Schools
GALE A. JELLUM
Coroner

BLAINE COUNTY

Chinook, Montana 59523

JAN. 14TH, 1977

REP. STEVE WALDRON
CAPITOL STATION
HELENA, MONTANA 59601

DEAR MR WALDRON

IN ANSWER TO YOUR LETTER OF INQUIRY REGARDING TITLE TRANSFERS FROM DEALERS TO OUR OFFICE, AND THE LATE REGISTRATION FEES, ECT.

WE DO HAVE SOME PROBLEMS WITH TITLES REACHING US FROM DEALERS, IF THEY ARE SENT TO A BANK FOR FINANCING, OR SOME OTHER PROBLEMS ARISING WITH THE TITLE FROM THE OWNERS, AND ALSO SOME TIMES THEY ARE MISTAKINGLY SENT TO A WRONG COUNTY AND BY THE TIME WE RECIEVE THEM BACK THE GRACE PERIOD HAS EXPIRED.

[I DO BELIEVE A LITTLE LONGER GRACE PERIOD WOULD BE HELPFUL, PROBABLY 12 TO 15 DAYS, AND A FLAT FEE OF \$15.00 WOULD BE ALRITE.]

WE HAVE HAD NO GREAT PROBLEMS IN THIS AREA, BUT BELIEVE THESE CHANGES WOULD BE HELPFUL.

SINCERLY YOURS

ORVAL B. SEVERSON
Orval B. Severson
BLAINE COUNTY TREASURER

WIBAUX COUNTY

WIBAUX, MONTANA

59353
January 14, 1977



OFFICE MEMO:

FROM THE OFFICE OF: Wibaux County Treasurer
TO: Rep. Steve Waldron
SUBJECT: Title transfers within 10 days.

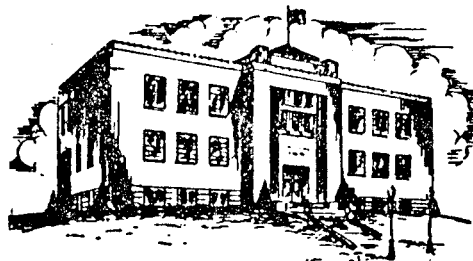
In regard to your letter dated Jan. 7, 1977.

Sometimes we have problems getting the title from the dealers within the three day limit, also some problems getting the liens on time.

As for the computation of the penalty fee we do not have a problem, but I think it is a good idea to have a flat \$15.00 penalty fee and a longer grace period.

Sincerely
Norman E. Beeler
Norman E. Beeler
Wibaux County Treasurer
Wibaux, Montana 59353

ROBERT A. TOMSHECK, Chairman
JOHN G. NESBO, Commissioner
TOM SHERRARD, Commissioner
E. V. KALBFLEISCH, Attorney
ELIZABETH MUNSON, Clerk and Recorder
JOHN L. BROOKS, Sheriff



VIVIAN S. HALL, Clerk of Court
MARY E. WESTERMARK, Treasurer
EARL O. BONDERUD, Assessor
SHARRON L. WEATHERSON, Co. Supt.
RONALD W. FLECK, M.D., Coroner
P. J. JACQUEMART, Public Administrator

COUNTY OF TOOLE

SHELBY, MONTANA

January 14, 1977

Steve Waldron, Representative
Montana State House of Representatives
Capitol Station
Helena, Montana 59601

Dear Steve:

Thank you for your correspondence of 1-7-77. The following information should help you understand some of our problems.

In Toole County, for the year 1976, we processed a total of 2,494 titles. This is a small amount compared to some of the large counties. However, problems are the same. Our local dealers are good. Unless there is some problem of signatures, etc. on the original title, they are always in our office within the 3 day period provided. The out of town dealers are not so good. Sometimes we have to call Great Falls to try to locate the title when the purchaser arrives to license because we do not have the title here. Sometimes they are sent to the wrong county and sometimes they just have not sent them out. As a rule the 10 day grace period is enough time. For us, some of our clients live as much as 78 miles from the courthouse and may not come to town but one time a week or so. In these cases I use my own judgment and do not give any fines. We are very considerate with the people on this and find that it pays off in good feelings toward our office. Sometimes the title is sent direct to the bank to have the lien applied. Our banks are good about letting us know and then they send the completed document to us. As for the \$15.00 penalty fee, it would be about the same. Some people deserve to be fined and some don't. Like any other fine it is abused and as an elected official I don't like this kind of fines. Penalty and interest on delinquent taxes is enough for me.

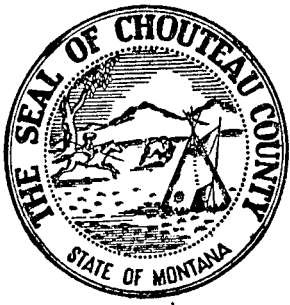
In general, we find that if we work with the people, most of them are willing to return the favor. Our problems are small and whatever your committee decides, we will try to understand and carry out.

If there is any other information you need, please do not hesitate to call me.

Very truly yours,

Mary
Mary E. Westermarck
Toole County Treasurer

Toole Co. Taxable Valuation \$23,999.788



OFFICE OF

Chouteau County Treasurer

Fort Benton, Montana 59442

Jan. 19, 1977

Rep. Steve Waldron
District #97
Capitol Station
Helena, Mt. 59601

Dear Sir:

In answer to your letter pertaining to motor vehicle titles.

Yes, we find that the automobile dealer is usually late mailing the title to our office, so the purchaser can be notified that we have the title in our office. Perhaps the dealer should be given a few more days to submit it to us.

I would agree that a flat penalty fee would be much easier to assess.

As you know, there is the County of Chouteau and the City of Choteau, therefore, often Chouteau County titles are send to Choteau, Teton County. Also, dealers in Cascade county send titles to the Cascade County Court House and purchasers do not receive the titles within 10 days.

Also, Dealers often use their own Box number and the purchaser's address is incorrect.

Often times a dealer sells a motor vehicle without having the title available so we are selling more 60 day permits.

Very truly yours

Grace M. Nelson, Treasurer
Chouteau County
Fort Benton, Mt. 59442

County Treasurer

POWDER RIVER COUNTY

BROADUS, MONTANA 59317

January 27, 77

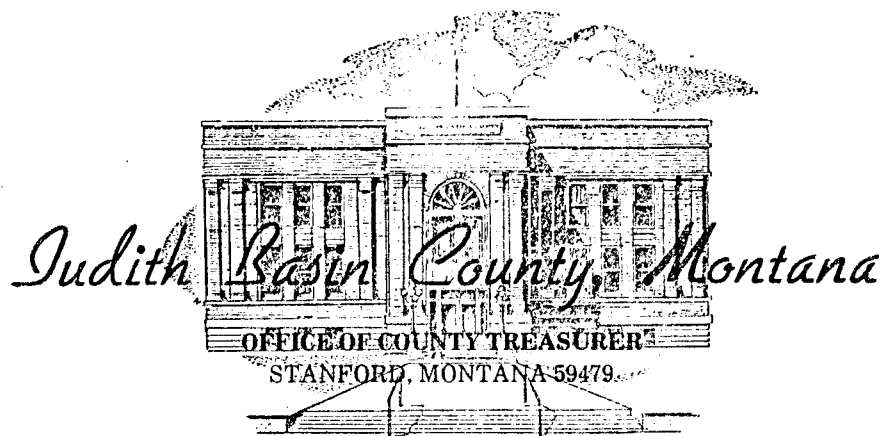
Representative Steve Waldron
District #97
Capitol Station
Helena, Montana 59601

Dear Representative:

In answer to your letter of January 7, 1977, the auto dealers do not get the title to the County Treasurer's Office within the three day time limit a lot of the time. The ten day transfer periods are frequently held up by delays in bank loans and a flat penalty fee of fifteen dollars would be much better in our opinion. Possibly five days longer grace period would help, too. This is, to the best of my knowledge, a better way of solving some of the problems concerning the transfers of motor vehicle titles. Thank you for being concerned about this matter and writing to us.

Sincerely,

Gladys Linnell



January 24, 1977

Rep. Steve Waldron
District #97
Capitol Station
Helena, Montana 59601

Dear Rep. Waldron,

About half of the time the dealer does not get the title into our office within three days. They claim it is impossible when the title has to be mailed out-of-town.

I would like to see the law changed so that the dealer would have to have a title for the vehicle before he could sell the vehicle; and then give the title to the new owner immediately. Since the plates stay with the owner there is no reason why the new owner can't have his title at the time he takes deliver of his vehicle.

I really don't think its necessary to fine these people if they are past their 10 day grace period. Maybe the fine should be a little more if he is stopped by the law.

To release the original owner of any liability there should be a form attached to the title that the owner will separate and mail immediately to Deer Lodge when the vehicle is sold.

If the title goes to the loaning agency it does take longer than the 10 days to get the title back.

Sincerely,

Ann Woods
Ann Woods
County Treasurer

LAKE COUNTY, MONTANA

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

DON CORRIGAN
Polson

ROBERT H. STRONG
St. Ignatius

WILSON A. BURLEY
Ronan

TREASURER

MARJORIE D. KNAUS

CLERK AND RECORDER

ETHEL M. HARDING



ASSESSOR
WILL TIDDY

SHERIFF AND CORONER
W. A. (Bill) PHILLIPS

CLERK OF COURT
VERA LANSING

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
GLENNADENE FERRELL

COUNTY ATTORNEY
RICHARD P. HEINZ

COUNTY SURVEYOR
S. A. (SI) KAMBO

POLSON, MONTANA

Jan. 24, 1977

Rep. Steve Waldron
District #97
Capitol Station
Helena, Mt.

Dear Mr. Waldron:

In reply to your letter of January 7, concerning problems associated with the transfers of motor vehicle titles:

We do believe the law is frequently violated on the ten day grace period. The delays are usually caused by the dealers not having the title in order with the vehicles they sell or having no titles at all. Our banks here do not present much problem, but a little longer grace period would help the Treasurers Office.

The dealers are also very lax about including the registration receipts for used vehicles they sell. This results in much delay, phone calls, etc. to try and determine whether the tax has been currently paid on the vehicle, and also trying to determine the expiration date that should be on the license plates issued.

Also, some dealers assure the customer that it is acceptable to put their old plates on the new vehicle, and some dealers even put the plates on for them. This is not legal before the vehicle has been registered in this office, and results in much confusion in some instances, as some customers don't bother coming up to register them until they suddenly realize they should get it registered in their name, or until they get picked up by the Highway Patrol.

Another delay on title transfers is caused by the liens being made out in one name, and then when the customer comes up to register it and apply for title transfer, he or she decides they prefer the title in two names or more. Not too long ago, we were advised by the Registrar of Motor Vehicles that all names on the title must also be on the lien. Is this a law? We cannot see why this is necessary. If the lien is filed on a vehicle it cannot come off until it is released by the lienholder, regardless of whether the lien is in one name or many names. What is the reason for this new delay making tactic?

Sincerely yours,

Marjorie D. Knaus
Lake Co. Treasurer

Grace Schumacher, Deputy

Viola Stenseth, Treasurer

Marjorie Justice, Deputy

Phone 775-3101

Treasurer of Carter County

Elkalaka, Montana 59324

January 20, 1977

Steve Waldron, Representative
District #97
Capitol Station
Helena, Montana 59601

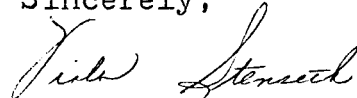
Dear Mr. Waldron:

In reply to your question about auto dealers sending titles to our office within three days of the sale, many dealers are very slow about this, often not having the title to transfer when they sell the vehicle. The bankers in this area are very cooperative so there is no problem, nor with the penalty fee.

I would very much favor a flat penalty fee of \$15.00 and the grace period of 15 days.

Thank you very much for your letter---it was appreciated.

Sincerely,



Viola Stenseth
Carter County Treasurer

Office Of The
COUNTY TREASURER
MADISON COUNTY
VIRGINIA CITY, MONTANA
59755

ALICE E. FLAGER
Treasurer

Phone 843-5362

18 Jan. 77

q Rep. Steve Waldron
Dist #97
Capitol Station
Helena, Mont.

Dear Mr. Waldron:

We have had quite a bit of difficulty here in Madison County with the transfer of titles, especially with those coming from dealers. There are no new car dealers in Madison County, just two used car dealers. Our problem here is the mail situation, people buying new cars have to go out of the county, and getting the paper work back to us usually gets to be a problem, calls have to be made to the dealer, etc. Another problem we have is the dealer sending the paper work to the wrong county, which results in phone calls, going over the ten day period etc. Another thing is the bank loans which are, at times, slow in coming through. In my opinion, I don't think the individual car buyer should be penalized as much as the car dealer, because 9 times out of ten it is the dealer who is at fault, or the bank who can't get the loan papers to the office.

The dealers and banks, in my opinion, should be instructed as to what their obligations are in regard to their customers situation, and if there is a definite problem, such as a title that has been destroyed, we should be allowed to issue 60 day stickers, and not fine the customer, as it wouldn't be his fault. Sometimes paper work is held up for an indefinite period because of some legal technicality, too, and the 60 day sticker is the only solution in these cases. Maybe a longer grace period would be the answer to most of the problems, or why couldn't the dealer be allowed to issue an additional sticker when problems arise that can't be solved within the ten day period?

I do hope that something better can be worked out for the customer, as they have really been hard pressed here in this county, we have had so much bad feelings over this, and it isn't their fault.

Yours very truly,

Alice Flager
Alice Flager

GLACIER COUNTY

CUT BANK, MONTANA 59427

Bertha Dunnigan
Treasurer

1/19/77

Rep. Steve Waldron
District #97
Capitol Station
Helena, Montana


Dear Mr. Waldron:

The Auto Dealers are sometime very slow in mailing the Titles to our office, and some send them to the wrong county by mistake. When customers do have a fine most of them tell us the Dealer did not tell them they have 10 days to license the vehicle and transfer the Title. This is true especially when they buy motor-cycles that do not have to be licensed, like dirt bikes or snow-mobiles.

The Banks are usually pretty good about mailing the papers to our office right away.

A flat penalty fee of \$15.00 and a 15-day grace period might be a good idea as most of our fines are for just 2 or 3 days late.

Very truly yours,


BERTHA DUNNIGAN
GLACIER COUNTY TREASURER

BD:bls

Cascade County

State of Montana

TELEPHONE: (406) 761-6700



Great Falls, Montana 59401

January 19, 1977

Rep. Steve Waldron
District #97
Capitol Station
Helena, Montana 59601

Dear Mr. Waldron:

Your letter of January 7th is of much interest to every County Treasurer in Montana. Granted, the lesser populated counties do not have the problem the larger counties have with the large number of auto dealers. My first remark is that most new car dealers are good about getting the papers to us on time. However, the majority of used car dealers in this county do not.

Most loan agreements are completed in the dealership. If outside financing is the wish of the purchaser, the dealer will not release the vehicle until they have been paid. In this case, the dealer most generally sends the title or application for title to us without the loan papers attached. When such transaction arrives we return them with instructions to attach the loan papers before returning them to us. This causes a lengthy delay, especially if the financing is by a small loan agency or credit union. Consequently, the customer makes frequent trips to our office or a number of telephone calls. This usually ends up with paying a penalty and an angry customer. In some cases, we have found dealers giving the customer two or even three 10 day permits. It would seem reasonable that in such cases the dealer and/or loan agency should be penalized but how do you police and collect such a penalty. As the law now reads, we do not have any problems in computing this penalty. However, I do feel that a flat rate would be more agreeable to the customer.

More days of grace period is not necessary. I do think there is insufficient emphasis placed by the dealer to the customer regarding this penalty. The more grace period given the easier it is for the customer to forget that he must register his vehicle.

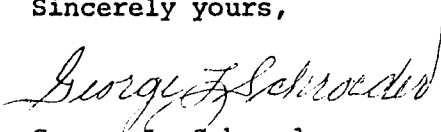
This next remark has no bearing upon the questions you asked in your letter



but it is a concern to every county treasurer. Many people never do come in to register their vehicle. They apply for a duplicate title from the Registrar and then go to some other county to have it registered without filing the lien. We know of many cases where the duplicate title is transferred in another State. Or the vehicle is involved in an accident during the grace period and totalled out, so we hold the title in our file, because Mr. Woodahl's opinion says we must keep these papers. In reality, after a certain period of time they should be sent to the Registrar to be placed in his dead file or in the case where a duplicate title has been issued, the one we have should be destroyed. At the present time, we have exactly 994 such papers in our file and this in our county alone. Every Treasurer has such a percentage of dead titles.

If I can be of more help to you, please do not hesitate to ask. It is reassuring to have a legislator ask for our opinion.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "George L. Schroeder". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

George L. Schroeder
Cascade County Treasurer

GLS/mas

BIG HORN COUNTY



MARGARET WHEELER, Treasurer

HARDIN, MONTANA

January 19, 1977

Dear Rep. Steve Waldron
Helena, Mt.

In reply to your recent letter regarding registering motor vehicles, we find the dealers aren't getting the papers to us on time and that they sell vehicles without sufficient papers or they aren't properly filled out. In order the purchaser get a license we have to hold up the papers and write for the rest that we need. This is the dealers obligation and not ours. We have a lot of trouble with buyers not getting these vehicles titled on time. Sometimes it is the Banks fault and other times it is the buyers fault. Some complain about the penalty fee, but we don't let them have it without the fee, so therefore we have a big box of these titles waiting to be picked up. We're loosing a big chunk of money when Indians on the reservation don't have to pay taxes on the vehicles, however they do pay New Car Tax. No the graduated fees seem to be the best for us as sometimes they are delinquent one day and others it is several days, Most usually it is a number of days. The Dealers not always explain the 10 day sticker to their customers, atleast that is what they tell us. Enclosed is a copy I found from another state but I thought it would be very good for the State of Montana. I sent a copy to Scotty when he was there but nothing was done about it. I hope we have come up with some good suggestions.

Yours truly,
Margaret Wheeler
Margaret Wheeler
County Treas, Big Horn Co.

NOTICE

You will be penalized if you do not transfer this TITLE at the office of your Register of Deeds within ¹⁰~~15~~ days from the date shown on the TITLE.

SPEED MESSAGE _F DATE Jan. 14, 1977

TO Steve Waldron

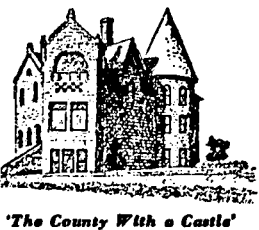
SUBJECT In answer to your letter concerning the law that requires the
dealer to send the title within three days. Yes this is violated, however
I do not feel that this should be extended, the dealers and bankers would
just hold the title longer and we would have more problems. The flat rate
of \$15.00 sounds great. There are problems with counting each day by the
different clerks and the customer wants weekends free as well as holidays.
If the fine was \$15.00 no matter what, there would be no arguing.

Thank you for taking the time to write to me.

Hill County Treasurer
Harold Mont 59501

FROM J. McLeod Hill County Treas.

GrayLine SNAP-A-WAY FORM 44-800 2-PARTS
WILSON JONES COMPANY • C 1961 • PRINTED IN U. S. A.



Meagher County, Montana

WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS

OFFICE OF
HELEN L. IREY
COUNTY TREASURER

January 14, 1977

Rep. Steve Waldron
District #97
Capitol Station
Helena, Montana 59601

Dear Mr. Waldron:

In answer to your letter:

1. Auto dealers do not always send the papers within three days.
2. Ten days grace period is usually plenty of time.
3. Computation of penalty fee is no problem.
4. No longer grace period. People would just wait that much longer to come in so no purpose would be served.

It would be helpful if the dealers would be sure the customer understands that there will be a penalty for delay and how much the penalty is. Also that the customer understands that the dealer will send the papers to the County Treasurer and not to the customer.

I appreciate the chance to sound off!

Yours truly,
Helen L. IreY
Helen L. IreY
Meagher County Treasurer

hi

Deer Lodge, Montana 59722

Box 229

1-14-77

FROM: POWELL COUNTY TREASURER

TO: Rep. Steve Waldron

RE: Transfers of Motor Vehicle Titles

Dear Sir:

The dealer never gets the Title applications here within 3 days; and lots of times it is past the 30 day period. There is usually no delay in bank loans. We have trouble collecting the penalty fee because people don't want to pay it. An officer of the law here insisted he wouldn't pay it and that it was against the law. A flat fee would be fine.


We have stacks of Title applications all of the time; people just don't come in and take care of them like they should.

Very truly yours,

Elizabeth M. Johnston

Elizabeth M. Johnston

Powell County Treasurer

Office of County Treasurer
Deer Lodge County PO BOX 847
Montana 59711


Anaconda, Montana,

January 14, 1977

Rep. Steve Waldron
District #97
Capitol Station
Helena, Montana 59601

Dear Mr. Waldron:

In reply to your letter dated January 7th., we discussed the matters and do feel that the (3) three day law is frequently violated. The(10) ten day grace period is sufficient, but it should be stressed by the dealer! If the grace period was extended, we feel that the dealer would be even more lax in getting the papers to our office.

We are in favor of the (15.00) fifteen dollar flat fine, provided there is some publicity to inform the public on the "penalty law". The automobile dealers should inform their customers that they MUST pick up the papers at the Treasurers office within the 10 day limit. At this time, Deer Lodge County has very little trouble with the bank loans.

It is refreshing to know that there is an interest in the problems associated with the transfers of motor vehicle titles, and know that you can count on our cooperation anytime.

Sincerely,

Dorothy M. Pearson

Dorothy M. Pearson
Deer Lodge County Treasurer

DMP/bw

DANIELS COUNTY

SCOBEE, MONTANA 59263

January 17, 1977

Rep. Steve Waldron
Dist. # 97
Capitol Station
Helena, Montana 59601

Re: Local Government
Taxation

Dear Mr. Waldron:-

In response to your letter of transferring Motor Vehicles, I would like to make the following statements.

1. Auto Dealers from our own county are quite prompt about seeing that we get the titles to be transferred within the 3 day limit, but the Out of County Dealers are very lax about it. We feel if there is a fine to the individual, that the law should read that the Dealer reimburse the individual if the Dealer is at fault.

2. Yes, we believe that a flat penalty fee of \$15.00 would be better with a longer grace period. Our customers get very unhappy with us when we charge them the penalty.

Sincerely yours,

Mildred Clausen
Mildred Clausen

Daniels County Treasurer

IRIS FROMDAHL, DEPUTY
SHEILA GRENDAHL, DEPUTY



CLERKS
MARY ANN KINNISON
CYNTHIA SLETVOLO
NANCY LINCOLN

COUNTY OF ROOSEVELT

OFFICE OF

VIRGINIA W. PLOUFFE

COUNTY TREASURER

WOLF POINT, MONTANA

January 14, 1977

The Honorable Steve Waldron
House of Representatives
District #97
Capitol Station
Helena, Montana 59601

Dear Mr. Waldron:

I appreciate your concern in the functioning of our local government and the opportunity to be able to voice an opinion on some of the laws passed, such as, the amendment of law 84-4242, on mobile homes. The feasibility of this law is nil. Our association has submitted six (6) bills, hopefully to be passed. One is to change the mobile home law, so it is workable.

As to the adherence of the 10 day grace period, we enforce it completely. I would have to say there is a very frequent violation of the three (3) day status by dealers. The people do have a problem transferring the title in the ten (10) day grace period, however, we do not find too much trouble with the banks presenting their liens in time.

As you probably know, we have a rather unique problem being on a reservation, where the licensing of a motor vehicle is not necessary, therefore we have titles in our files for years back.

I do feel we may be able to get them to come in earlier to transfer titles by imposing the penalty fee. It is immaterial to us if the fees are graduated or not.

If our neighboring counties are allowed to be lax in their enforcement of this law, it is a hindrance to our office. (Maybe a state examiner could check into this more fully.)

IRIS FROMDAHL, DEPUTY
SHEILA GRENDahl, DEPUTY



CLERKS
MARY ANN KINNISON
CYNTHIA SLETVOLD
NANCY LINCOLN

COUNTY OF ROOSEVELT
OFFICE OF
VIRGINIA W. PLOUFFE
COUNTY TREASURER
WOLF POINT, MONTANA

If every legislature would show as much integrity as you to consult the people who work with these problems, it would be for a better government.

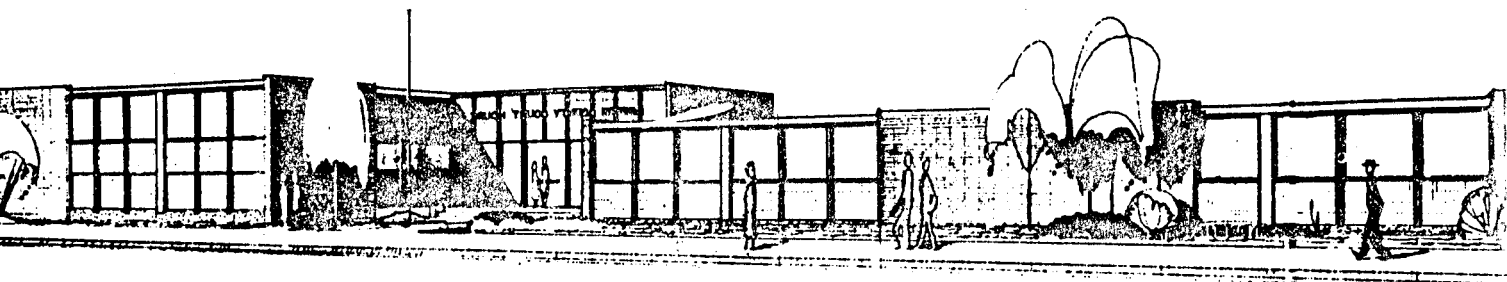
I am sorry to have such a long letter, but am a very concerned person, when it comes to laws that effect the efficiency of our office.

God Bless You on your endeavors.

Sincerely,

Virginia W. Plouffe
Roosevelt County Treasurer
Wolf Point, Montana 59201
Vice-President State Association

cs,clk



OFFICE OF:
COUNTY TREASURER

COUNTY OF DAWSON

GLENDIVE, MONTANA 59330

P.O. Box ~~530~~ 281
Phone 365-3026

January 17, 1977

Rep. Steve Waldron
District #97
Capitol Station
Helena, Mt. 59601

Dear Representative Waldron:

In answer to your letter concerning transfer of title on motor vehicles, I wish to say that we do have problems with some dealers getting the titles to us even by the 10th day. We often have to make long distance calls to secure them for the patron.

Also, there sometimes is confusion when the title goes to the bank to have the lien put on and sometimes between the bank and the dealer it goes over 10 days.

We do not have trouble computing the penalty fee. However, I think your idea of a flat \$15.00 penalty is good and extending the grace period to 15 days might ease the problem somewhat, especially where a lien is involved.

Possibly there should be a penalty for the dealer when he does not get the title to us on time. This may be somewhat hard to enforce in the case of out-of-town or out-of-state dealers.

Yours truly,

Margaret Temple
Dawson County Treasurer

Rep. Steve Waldron
District # 97
Capitol Station
Helena, Mt. 59601

RICHLAND COUNTY TREASURER
P. O. BOX 1106
SIDNEY, MONTANA 59270

SUBJECT: Transfer of Motor Vehicle Titles

DATE: 1-18-77

MESSAGE

Dear Mr. Waldron,

The answer to the first question, do the dealers get the papers to us in three days, NO. We do have some that get them up in three days but not many. A fifteen day period would maybe help because the paper work isn't always easy to get done in three days. We would like a flat fee rather than figuring the days each time. What we would really like is for the Dealers to send the Papers directly to Deer Lodge themselves as they did in years past. I think they would be more careful to get what they need. We have a problem getting them to furnish all the needed papers at times. Thank You for trying to help us in this matter.

Sincerely,

Mary Bieber

PLEASE REPLY TO ▶

SIGNED:

REPLY

DATE: SIGNED:

DETACH YELLOW COPY — SEND WHITE AND PINK COPIES WITH CARBONS INTACT

LOT # 578492

FORM NO. PK100U-3

AVAILABLE FROM BUSINESS ENVELOPE MANUFACTURERS, INC. • PEARL RIVER, N.Y. • BRONX, N.Y. • CLINTON, TENN. • MELROSE PARK, ILL. • ANAHEIM, CALIF.

PRINTED IN U.S.A.

THIS COPY FOR PERSON ADDRESSED

Angela Elwood
FLATHEAD COUNTY TREASURER
P. O. BOX 698
KALISPELL, MONTANA 59901

January 17, 1977

Rep. Steve Waldron
District #97
Capitol Station
Helena, Montana

Dear Sir:

I am very happy that you ^Kasked for our opinion on motor vehicle problems.

The law that states that auto dealers have three (3) days after completing a sale is quite often not adhered to. Especially if there is a lien on the unit. We have "discussions" with several people who do not come in within the ten (10) day grace period, then do not want to pay the penalty. They say the dealers do not tell them they have to at least transfer title within that time. Although it is written on the sticker they have in the back window.

I do think that this law has helped greatly in clearing our files. In my opinion, I think a fifteen (15) day grace period would be better than the ten (10) day one. That way you could give the dealers five (5) days to get the papers to the Treasurer's office. One of the problems is that the dealers often times sell a unit that they do not have the title to at the time of sale.

As far as computing the penalty fee, we do not have any problem with that. As to the penalty fee, I think it might as well stay the same. On the average we only have to charge for a couple of days. If they have a fifteen (15) day grace period that should eliminate some of the penalty fees. They cause quite a bit of hard feelings to say the least.

I think, some how, the dealers and public alike should be more knowledgeable about the use of the ten (10) day stickers.

Thank you for your cooperation on this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Angela Elwood
Flathead County Treasurer

JOHANNA BRICKER, COUNTY TREASURER

P. O. Box 980

LEWISTOWN, MONTANA 59457

538-9220

Steve Waldron
Capitol Station
Helena, Montana 59601

DATE January 17, 1977

SUBJECT

Dear Mr. Waldron:

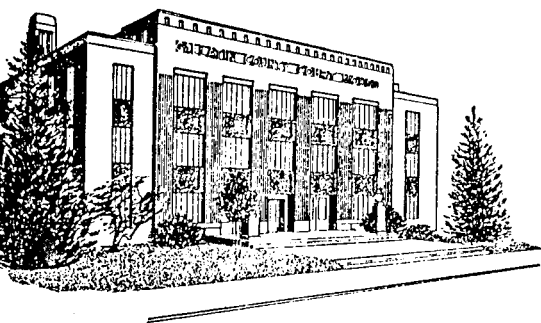
In answer to your letter dated January 7th and received here on Jan. 14th, I would be glad to help answer some of your questions in regard to motor vehicle licensing.

The dealers are very lax about getting the titles to our office within the three day period following sale. Many times the customer has to call them or we do it for them. Also, they do not always inform the customer that he must come to this office. Some are waiting to receive it in their mail while all the time the title is in our office. I would say that the 10 day period allowed for transfer is sufficient in most cases. We do not have to impose the fine very often because if the customer does not appear in a reasonable time after we receive the papers, we call him in time to make the transfer before the 10 days expire. However, a flat penalty fee of \$15.00 would be all right instead of the graduated fee.

Yours very truly,

Johanna Bricker
County Treasurer

JB



State of Montana
COUNTY OF GALLATIN
◆ P.O. BOX 549
Bozeman

January 17, 1977

Rep. Steve Waldron
District #97
Capitol Station
Helena, Montana 59601

Dear Rep. Waldron:

In regard to your letter of January 7 on the transfer of motor vehicle titles, I feel that most of the dealers do not get their title work up to our office within the three day limit which the law gives them.

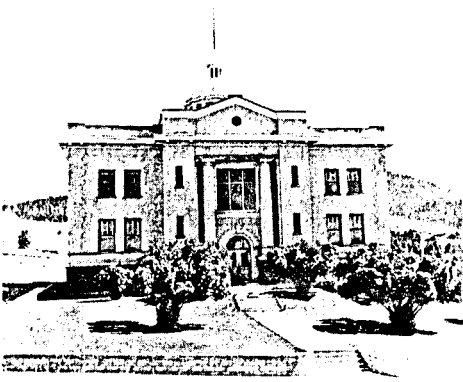
I would say they usually get the work up to us within 5 to 7 days. I really do not think people have a problem transferring the title within the 10 day grace period. We feel that if they are going to come up they will come up in that length of time or otherwise they might leave it go for weeks, especially if they aren't driving it. We find no problem with delays because of bank loans. We have not had a problem with the computation of the penalty fee due to the fact that we have not charged them more than the flat \$10.00 penalty.

We do have many irate people who do not understand the 10 day sticker law which I think is partly due to the lack of communication between dealer and customer and the fact that people do not read their sticker which has the law printed on it.

I really feel that the 10 day grace period is long enough. If given more time I'm afraid people would only put it off or forget. People seem to put things like this off until the very last minute.

I hope this letter will be of some help to you.

Iris L. Whittle
Gallatin County Treasurer
Bozeman, Montana



Office of

County Treasurer

Granite County

Philipsburg, Montana

January 17, 1977

Rep. Steve Waldron
District # 97
Capitol Station
Helena, Mont 59601

Dear Rep. Waldron:

Thank you for your letter requesting opinions of the County Treasurer's Offices.

The three day requirement for getting title application from the dealer to the Treasurer's Office is hardly ever met -- the average time is from five days to a week. I think the three day limit is unrealistic if the dealer is in a different town from the county seat -- by the time they complete the paper work, and the bank does the same, the time is up -- without mailing time.

If there were some way to penalize the dealer who does not even mail papers until after the ten days, it would be nice -- we have had that problem many times.

Possibly a seven day time limit on getting papers to the Treasurers office, and a fifteen day limit on completing title application, by the buyer, would be well. And the flat penalty fee of fifteen dollars, rather than the graduated penalty fee, would also meet with our approval.

If there were some way to make ALL dealers record ALL pertinent data concerning the vehicles they are selling, on the applications -- or some way to require the G.V.W. division to simplify the lists they send us, it would help. The G.V.W. lists so many different vehicles -- particularly trucks -- that we rarely can find the one the dealer has listed. Exception is Chevrolet trucks, who are listed by model number. If the dealer would even state wheel length, motor, 4x4 or 2x2, F.C.B. and color, it would help. (Some do, now-- but not all.)

Banks do not usually hold up papers, but loan companies quite often do -- Household Finance, etc.

Very truly yours,

Emma B. Dickson
Granite County Treasurer

County of Yellowstone

TREASURER



P. O. BOX 1235
BILLINGS, MONTANA
59103

January 17, 1977

Rep. Steve Waldron
Dist. # 97
Capitol Station
Helena, Mt. 59601

Re: Licensing Auto

Dear Steve:

I am in support of the law as it now stands. I see no need to change the time element. Your inquiry as to the law being strictly adhered to ^{it} frequently violated: Our county is enforcing this and have no proplems.

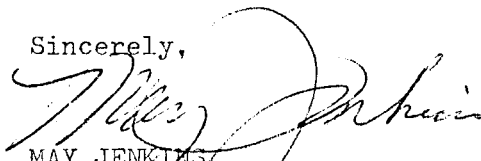
Please defeat this bill-reason if the dealer has more time he takes more time- if the fee is not gratuated, we will have a back log of titles here unbelievable- as the cost would be the same once a penalty has been established.

As the bill is written now the \$10.00 plus \$1.00 a day has an incentive to come in before \$25.00 is charged.

We don't need any change.

Thank you,

Sincerely,


MAY JENKINS
Yellowstone County Treasurer

MJ/sm

Lewis and Clark County

Office of Treasurer

HELENA, MONTANA 59601

January 13, 1977

ARLENE O'LEARY
TREASURER

Dear Representative Waldron:

Yes, we do have problems with all the questions you have asked about. I believe that most of the time, title papers are slowed up because of the loans on the vehicles. Credit Unions have to wait for a board meeting in some instances. Also, the stickers are not always on our papers after they are sent to us from the banks, which gives us no control on the fines.

The car dealers will take in a second hand car with the seller signing it off and having his signature notarized the day he turns it over to the dealer. The dealer then, may not sell the vehicle for several months. At that time he will fill out the 10 Day Sticker and attach it to the papers and send them on to the bank for the necessary lein papers. The banks are then to send all the papers on to us. However, the 10 Day Sticker has been removed and there is no way we can determine when it was sold or how long the banks have had the papers in their possession.

I believe that if the dealer could send us a copy of the 10 Day Stickers the same day they sell the vehicle and tell us what bank or credit union they sent the papers to, we would know more about who has the papers and of who is not getting the papers to us on time. The customers would also know who is holding their papers up. This would also help stop the practice of the dealers issuing more than one 10 Day Sticker.

I would like having the fine as one set fee. I do believe that it would be a fairer practice to the public to add a few more days to the grace period. This would help eliminate the need for customers to have to make more than one trip to our office looking for their papers.

If I can be of further assistance, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Darlene O'Leary

Darlene O'Leary, Treasurer

DO/sw

OFFICE OF
COUNTY TREASURER

PRAIRIE COUNTY, MONTANA
TERRY, MONTANA 59349

PO BOX 458

January 14, 1977

REP. STEVE WALDRON
District # 97
Capitol Station
Helena, Montana 59601

Dear Rep. Waldron:

In reply to your letter of January 7, 1977, here are a few drawbacks of our present laws.

The three day completion of sale by the dealer is an impossibility. Here in this community where many customers shop out of town, it does not give enough time for finance papers and mail delivery. Even the dealers in town find it hard to process financing and etc. which has to be done. This makes it hard for the Treasurer's office to enforce. The dealers in many instances will not cooperate as they should. The majority of the dealers will not give the manufacturer's list price, as the title application asks for and the few dealers that are honest make it unfair to the customers, where another dealer lists a price below F.O.B. price. This is when we tax for the new use tax on a new vehicle. I believe a ten day period would be long enough for the customer if the dealers would cooperate honestly. Also, I think a penalty should be , so that people will take care of the paper work. I certainly feel that the penalty should be raised from \$10.00 to \$25.00 if its a flat rate or otherwise. I wish that there was some way that the dealers could be fined, but when they're out of town and county. Who's to enforce it and they won't mail their penalty check with the title applications. So, what should and could a treasurer do?

Also, the mobile home law is creating a lot of trouble, we have dealers putting on dealer plates and moving them out of the county without a permit. Therefore, when the taxes aren't paid we lose the taxes, without any means of collecting them out of our county. The Montana Highway Patrol claim that they are not a violation to their department, so how can this be prohibited in the future? The one time a year tax was much easier to collect in these cases, than the two collections which are spread through out the whole year.

There should definitely be a limitation as to the number of dealer plates that one dealer can purchase. I don't think that everybody related to the dealer should be allowed to put dealer plates or used dealer plates on their car. There are absolutely no taxes collected on these vehicles and they are using our roads and streets, and shouldn't they pay their share of the taxes also? In a small county like this it would add a nice sum of taxes . Also , I would like to see a change in the law, and have the dealers pay an inventory taxes on the cars on hand on assessment date as it had been done in the past.

Hope that this will be of some help to you in making decisions to make laws that will be better to enforce.

Sincerely,


Edna C. Irion, Treasurer

WESLEY W. STEARNS, COMMISSIONER

HENRY L. GILL, COMMISSIONER

GEORGE W. WELLS, COMMISSIONER

DIXIE VAUGHT
CLERK & RECORDER

JUNE M. THAYER
TREASURER

PAUL J. FARLAN
ASSESSOR

JAMES L. PALMER
SUPT. OF SCHOOLS



WINIFRED I. VAN DERHOFF
CLERK DISTRICT COURT

ROBERT L. FLETCHER
ATTORNEY

A.H. CHENEY
SHERIFF

C.E. ROSDAHL
CORONER

THOMPSON FALLS, MONTANA

59873

January 18, 1977

Rep. Steve Waldron
District #97
Capitol Station
Helena, Montana 59601

Dear Representative Waldron,

In reply to your inquiry of January 7th, please be advised that the 3 day law is violated 99% of the time. Most dealers take a week or 10 days.

Secondly, people are not held up by bank loans as much as they are by dealers who sell a used vehicle on which they have not received the title from the former owner and often a duplicate title must be secured before the transaction can be completed.

We also have instances where people buy a car and then find they do not have the money to license it until their next payday, and occasionally the dealer sends the papers to the wrong Treasurer's Office which creates a delay.

We would like to see the grace period extended to 15 days but feel the graduated penalty fee is more fair.

Appreciate your inquiry as we are not often consulted on legislative matters that effect our office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "June M. Thayer".

(Miss) June M. Thayer
Sanders County Treasurer

JMT/jt

PHILLIPS COUNTY

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

DWANE W. COMPTON, Chairman
Malta, Montana

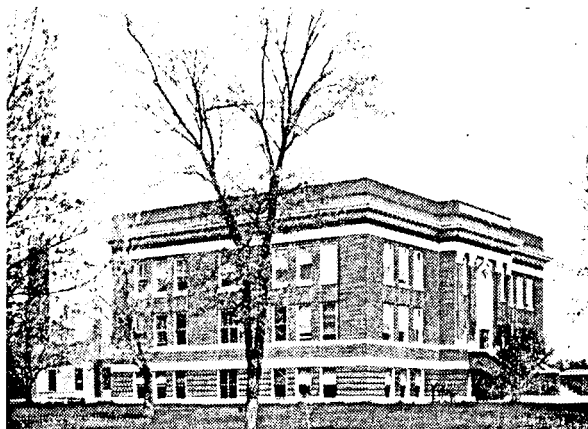
DANN M. GARRISON
Saco, Montana

RALPH PATRICK
Wagner, Montana

District Judge
THOMAS DIGNAN
Glasgow, Montana

Clerk and Recorder
INGELEF I. SCHWARTZ

Treasurer
KATHARINE WATSON



MALTA, MONTANA

59538

Assessor
HELEN WATERS

Sheriff
PETE MESSERLY

Clerk of Court
DORIS D. RUMMEL

Superintendent of Schools
DOLORES HUGHES

County Attorney
DONALD D. COLE

Coroner
GARRY ADAMS

Public Administrator
DAN BROADBROOKS

Justice of Peace
GAYLE FLOREN
WM. S. WATERS

January 18, 1977

Rep. Steve Waldron
District #97
Capitol Station
Helena, Montana

Dear Mr Waldron:

I will be glad to state my opinions in regard to the "late registration" law. As we have had many problems with it and would like to have it amended.

I do feel we need more cooperation of the auto dealers. I don't think they explain the law or the importance of it to the buyers. We have some who are very good, and others who aren't. And we do have titles arriving beyond the expiration date, especially from out-of-town Dealers. Then times they are not in proper order to transfer.

Yes, we have "hold-ups" at the Banks for contracts also.

Must admit I have not adhered to the law strictly, because of all these problems.

I do feel a flat penalty would be better. Such as the 10 day grace period with \$10.00 penalty. I always did feel the \$25.00 penalty was too much. As I have many motorcycle title which were refused to register, because of the \$25.00 penalty. (lower penalty and strictly enforce it)

Another "gripe" of mine is the abuse of Dealers Plates. The Co. Treasurers are striving to correct this. If you can be any help to us in this matter, it would be appreciated very much.

Sincerely,
Katharine Watson
Katharine Watson
Phillips Co. Treas.

COUNTY OF STILLWATER

STATE OF MONTANA

COLUMBUS, MONTANA

February 4, 1977

Steve Waldron, Representative
District #97
Capitol Station
Helena, Montana 59601

Dear Representative Waldron:

I regret that I have not replied to your inquiry before now, and trust that I am not too late with my comments concerning our experience with the present Transfer of Motor Vehicle Title law.

(1) Dealers required to send the title to the County Treasurer's office within three (3) days of completing the sale.

(A) I find this to be a clumsy arrangement, titles usually do not reach this office within the three day limitation. The law is frequently violated.

(2) Purchaser's do have problems transferring within the ten day (10) grace period. It is not unusual for several calls, checking as to whether the papers have been received by the Treasurer or not.

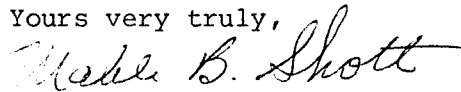
I would not blame the dealer all of the time, they have their problems also, papers are sometimes missent to the wrong county, or delayed in the mail.

(3) Titles are frequently processed, and submitted for transfer, before loans for financing arrive, we are not aware that a lien is to be filed, so do not feel responsible for the oversight. I do not know just what the problem is in this respect, since it would seem the application for title or an existing title should accompany the request for a loan.

(4) I find no problem with the computation of the penalty fee, however I would be in favor of a flat fee. Neither do I feel there should be a penalty if the purchaser has made a conscientious effort to complete the transaction on time.

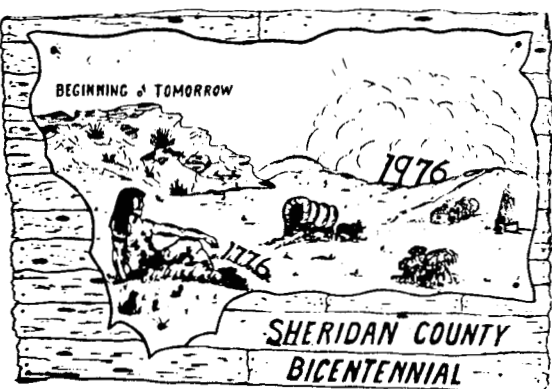
Trusting this information regarding my experience with the existing law if helpful.

Yours very truly,



Mahle B. Shott, Treasurer

cc: McLane Dist #72
Aber Senate #36



BETTY A. TEIGEN

MILDRED LARSON

TREASURER

DEPUTY

OFFICE OF

COUNTY TREASURER

SHERIDAN COUNTY MONTANA

PLENTYWOOD, MONTANA

59254

Rep. Steve Waldron
District #97
Capitol Station
Helena, Montana 59601

January 26, 1977

Dear Representative Waldron:

Sorry to be so slow in answering your letter of January 7, 1977 but the letter got buried on my desk and I did not discover it until the other day.

Our dealers have been doing real well in getting the papers here on time. We do have one dealer that gives the papers to the individual, therefore we do not get any 10 day sticker date. We do not have many that miss the 10 day grace period. We find those who do miss the grace period are the ones that should be in on time as they do not have the extra money for the fine.

I think the \$15.00 flat fee would be a better idea as it always seems that someone is asking if Saturdays and Sundays count also. I think that the dealers should either make the expiration date on Friday or Monday if the expiration falls on a Saturday or Sunday. Since we are not open those days it is unfair to the customer.

Ten days should be long enough, although sometimes getting liens take longer. Maybe a grace period of 20 days would be better.

The "10 day sticker" should be made easier to read as to the expiration date. Some states have a paper-like license plate that has the expiration date in large numbers.

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

Betty A. Teigen
Betty A. Teigen
COUNTY TREASURER

BT/nf

To: Senate Committee on Highways and Transportation

From: Bob Person

Re: Amendments to SB 440

Several amendments to SB 440, Department of Transportation, have been proposed. This memo outlines these amendments and who proposed them.

1. Amend title, line 13.

Following: "1947"

Insert: "; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE"

This is a technical amendment to cure an error discovered by indexers on the Council staff. The last section in the bill provides an effective date, which should be reflected in the title.

2. Amend page 4, section 4, line 14.

Strike: "those"

Insert: "their"

This amendment corrects a typographical error noticed by John Hollow who drafted the bill.

3. Amend page 9, section 11, lines 2 through 9.

Strike: section 11 in its entirety

Renumber: all subsequent sections.

If Senator Smith's bill repealing motor vehicle inspection (SB 134) is enacted, which is very likely, this section should be removed.

4. Amend page 10, section 12, line 15.

Following: "(d)"

Strike: "No less than"

Insert: "At least"

Following: "members"

Strike: "may"

Insert: "shall"

5. Amend page 10, section 12, line 16.

Following: "related to"

Strike: "either"

Insert: "each of the following modes of transportation"