

1 Senate BILL NO. 166
2 INTRODUCED BY Monty
3

4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT AMENDING SECTION
5 53-106, R.C.M. 1947, TO PROVIDE THAT NUMBER PLATES FOR MOTOR
6 VEHICLES BE ISSUED EVERY FOUR (4) YEARS, AND TO ADD AN
7 ADDITIONAL FEE FOR REGISTRATION OF FIFTY CENTS PER YEAR; AND
8 AMENDING SECTION 53-112, R.C.M. 1947, TO INCREASE THE FEE
9 FOR ORIGINAL CERTIFICATE OF OWNERSHIP AND TRANSFER OF TITLE
10 FROM TWO DOLLARS TO THREE DOLLARS."
11

12 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

13 Section 1. Section 53-106, R.C.M. 1947, is amended to
14 read as follows:

15 "53-106. Number plates. (1) Every motor vehicle which
16 shall be driven upon the streets or highways of this state
17 shall display both front and rear a number plate, bearing
18 the distinctive number assigned such vehicle. Such number
19 plate shall be in eight series: one series for owners of
20 motor cars, one for owners of motor vehicles of the
21 motorcycle type, one for trailers, one for trucks, one for
22 dealers in vehicles of the motorcycle type which shall bear
23 the distinctive letters "MCD" or the letters "MC" and the
24 word "DEALER," one for franchised dealers in new motor cars
25 (including trucks and trailers) or new and used motor cars

1 (including trucks and trailers) which shall bear the
2 distinctive letter "D" or the word "DEALER," one for dealers
3 in used motor cars only (including used trucks and trailers)
4 which shall bear the distinctive letters "UD" or the letter
5 "U" and the word "DEALER," and one for dealers in trailers
6 and/or semitrailers (new or used) which shall bear the
7 distinctive letters "DTR" or the letters "TR" and the word
8 "DEALER," and all such markings for the aforementioned kinds
9 of dealers' plates shall be placed on the number plates
10 assigned thereto in such position thereon as the registrar
11 may designate. ~~All~~ Effective January 1, 1975, all number
12 plates for motor vehicles shall be issued every--other for
13 four (4) year, periods provided-that-number-plates-will-next
14 be---issued---in---the---year---1973---and---in---alternate---years
15 thereafter, shall bear a distinctive marking, and shall be
16 furnished by the state. In alternate intervening years the
17 registrar shall provide nonremovable stickers bearing
18 appropriate registration numbers which shall be affixed to
19 the license plates in use.

20 (2) In the case of motor cars, number plates shall be
21 of metal six inches wide and twelve inches in length, the
22 outline of the state of Montana shall be used as a
23 distinctive border on such license plates, and the word
24 "Montana" with the year shall be placed across the bottom of
25 the plate. Such registration plate shall be treated with a

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1 reflectorized background material according to
 2 specifications prescribed by the registrar. An additional
 3 fee of ~~fifty-cents~~ one dollar (\$1.00) per year for each
 4 registration of a vehicle shall be added to the registration
 5 fee. Revenue from this fee shall be forwarded by the
 6 respective county treasurers to the state treasurer for
 7 deposit in the motor vehicle recording account of the
 8 earmarked revenue fund. Disbursements from the motor vehicle
 9 recording account shall be made by warrant drawn by the
 10 registrar. The distinctive registration numbers shall begin
 11 with a number one (1) or with a letter-number combination
 12 such as "A 1" or "AA 1," or any other similar combination of
 13 letters and numbers and be numbered consecutively for each
 14 series of plates. The distinctive registration number or
 15 letter-number combination assigned to the vehicle shall
 16 appear on the plate preceded by the number of the county and
 17 appearing in horizontal order on the same horizontal base
 18 line, and the county number shall be separated from the
 19 distinctive registration number by a dash or a dot unless a
 20 letter-number combination is used. The dimensions of such
 21 numerals and letters shall be determined by the registrar of
 22 motor vehicles, provided that all county and registration
 23 numbers shall be of equal height.

24 (3) For the use of tax-exempt motor vehicles, in
 25 addition to the markings herein provided, number plates

1 shall have thereon the following distinctive markings:

2 For vehicles owned by the state the registrar of motor
 3 vehicles may designate the prefix number for the various
 4 state departments, and all numbered plates issued to state
 5 departments shall bear the words "State Owned" and no year
 6 number will be indicated thereon as these numbered plates
 7 will be of a permanent nature, and will be replaced by the
 8 registrar of motor vehicles at such time when the physical
 9 condition of numbered plates require same. For vehicles
 10 owned by the counties, municipalities and school districts
 11 and used and operated by officials and employees thereof in
 12 line of duty as such, and for vehicles on loan from the
 13 United States government or the state of Montana, to, or
 14 owned by, the civil air patrol and used and operated by
 15 officials and employees thereof in the line of duty as such,
 16 there shall be placed on the number plates assigned thereto,
 17 in such position thereon as the registrar may designate, the
 18 letter "X" or the word "EXEMPT." Distinctive registration
 19 numbers for plates assigned to motor vehicles of each of the
 20 counties in the state and those of the municipalities and
 21 school districts situated within each of said counties shall
 22 begin with number 1 and be numbered consecutively.

23 (4) On all number plates assigned to motor vehicles of
 24 the truck and trailer type, other than tax-exempt trucks and
 25 trailers, there shall appear the letter "T" or the word

1 "TRUCK" for plates assigned to trucks and the letters "TR"
 2 or the word "TRAILER" for plates assigned to trailers, and
 3 housetrailer, and the letters "MC" or the word "CYCLE" for
 4 plates assigned to vehicles of the motorcycle type.

5 Number plates issued to a passenger car, truck, trailer
 6 or vehicle of the motorcycle type may be transferred only to
 7 a replacement passenger car, truck, trailer or motorcycle
 8 type vehicle.

9 (5) For the purpose of this act, the several counties
 10 of the state shall be assigned numbers as follows: Silver
 11 Bow, 1; Cascade, 2; Yellowstone, 3; Missoula, 4; Lewis and
 12 Clark, 5; Gallatin, 6; Flathead, 7; Fergus, 8; Powder River,
 13 9; Carbon, 10; Phillips, 11; Hill, 12; Ravalli, 13; Custer,
 14 14; Lake, 15; Dawson, 16; Roosevelt, 17; Beaverhead, 18;
 15 Chouteau, 19; Valley, 20; Toole, 21; Big Horn, 22;
 16 Musselshell, 23; Blaine, 24; Madison, 25; Pondera, 26;
 17 Richland, 27; Powell, 28; Rosebud, 29; Deer Lodge, 30;
 18 Teton, 31; Stillwater, 32; Treasure, 33; Sheridan, 34;
 19 Sanders, 35; Judith Basin, 36; Daniels, 37; Glacier, 38;
 20 Fallon, 39; Sweet Grass, 40; McCone, 41; Carter, 42;
 21 Broadwater, 43; Wheatland, 44; Prairie, 45; Granite, 46;
 22 Meagher, 47; Liberty, 48; Park, 49; Garfield, 50; Jefferson,
 23 51; Wibaux, 52; Golden Valley, 53; Mineral, 54; Petroleum,
 24 55; Lincoln, 56; any new counties shall be assigned numbers
 by the registrar of motor vehicles as they may be formed,

1 beginning with the number 57."

2 Section 2. Section 53-112, R.C.M. 1947, is amended to
 3 read as follows:

4 "53-112. Fee for original certificate of ownership and
 5 transfer of title. A charge of ~~two~~ three dollars ~~(~~\$2.00~~)~~
 6 (\$3.00) shall be made for issuance of an original
 7 certificate of ownership of title and for a transfer of
 8 registration which shall be collected by the county
 9 treasurer. The fees shall be distributed as follows:

10 (a) ~~One-dollar-(~~\$1.00~~)~~ Two dollars (\$2.00) of each fee
 11 shall be remitted to the registrar of motor vehicles by the
 12 county treasurer with each application for original
 13 certificate of ownership or transfer of registration.

14 (b) Prior to March 1, 1966 and each March thereafter,
 15 the county commissioners of each county shall divide the
 16 fees retained by the county to

17 (i) the city road fund of each city and town within the
 18 county based on the number of motor vehicles registered
 19 inside the corporate limits of each city or town, and

20 (ii) the county road fund based on the number of motor
 21 vehicles registered outside the corporate limits of cities
 22 and towns."

-End-

STATE OF MONTANA

REQUEST NO. 166-75

FISCAL NOTE

Form BD-15

In compliance with a written request received February 5, 1975, 19 _____, there is hereby submitted a Fiscal Note for Senate Bill 166 pursuant to Chapter 53, Laws of Montana, 1965 - Thirty-Ninth Legislative Assembly.

Background information used in developing this Fiscal Note is available from the Office of Budget and Program Planning, to members of the Legislature upon request.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION:

Senate Bill 166 provides that number plates for motor vehicles be issued every four years instead of the current every other year system, adds an additional fee for registration of 50 cents per year, and increases the fee for original certificate of ownership and transfer of title from two dollars to three dollars.

ASSUMPTIONS:

1. Vehicle registration will increase 1% per year.
2. License plate cost estimates are based upon budget information received from the license plate manufacturing division of the State Prison.
3. Since 1975 license plates have already been produced using materials which will last for only two years, the first four year plate would be produced in 1977.
4. Approximately 120,000 sets of license plates per year will be issued after the year of original issue.
5. License costs include \$80,000 per year tag production where appropriate.
6. License plate costs include \$42,600 for equipment replacement in 1979.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Title and Registration:	FY 76	FY 77
Estimated title & registration receipts under current law	\$ 568,502	\$ 574,187
Estimated title & registration receipts under proposed law	<u>1,194,778</u>	<u>1,206,725</u>
Total increase in title & registration receipts	<u>\$ 626,276</u>	<u>\$ 632,538</u>

License Plates - four year period estimates are provided in order to more clearly illustrate the effect of proposed legislation.

Calendar Year	Regular plate - 1977 issue - 2 year issue thereafter	Regular plate - 1977 issue - 4 year issue thereafter
1976	\$ 136,017	\$ 136,017
1977	835,357	860,849
1978	141,618	141,618
1979	<u>961,493</u>	<u>266,600</u>
4 year total	<u>\$2,074,485</u>	<u>\$1,405,084</u>

CONCLUSION:

Enactment of Senate Bill 166 will result in decreased license plate expenditures over the 1976-1979 period of \$669,401, and increased title and registration receipts of \$1,258,814 during the biennium. There will be no fiscal impact on local government.

Michael B. Billings

 BUDGET DIRECTOR

Office of Budget and Program Planning

Date: 2/13/75