

HOUSE BILL NO. 661

2/04 Introduced  
2/04 Referred to Highways & Transportation  
2/14 Hearing  
Died in Committee

1 HOUSE BILL NO. 661  
2 INTRODUCED BY Ristoria-McConnell

3  
4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REQUIRING PRESENTATION  
5 OF A VALID INSURANCE CARD FOR REGISTRATION OF A MOTOR  
6 VEHICLE AND SUSPENSION OF DRIVER'S LICENSE FOR CERTAIN  
7 OFFENSES; AMENDING SECTIONS 61-6-302 AND 61-6-304, MCA."

8  
9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

10 Section 1. Section 61-6-302, MCA, is amended to read:  
11 "61-6-302. Proof of compliance. (1) Except as provided  
12 in subsection ~~(2)~~ (3), before any applicant required to  
13 register his motor vehicle may do so, the applicant must:

14 (a) certify to the county treasurer that he possesses  
15 an automobile liability insurance policy, a certificate of  
16 self-insurance, or a posted indemnity bond or that he is  
17 eligible for an exemption under 61-6-303 covering the motor  
18 vehicle; and

19 (b) display the currently valid insurance card issued  
20 pursuant to subsection (5) for the motor vehicle being  
21 registered.

22 (2) The certification required by subsection (1)(a)  
23 shall be on a form prescribed by the division of motor  
24 vehicles. The division may immediately cancel the  
25 registration and license plates of the vehicle upon

1 notification that the insurance certification was not  
2 correctly represented. Any person who intentionally provides  
3 false information on an insurance certification is guilty of  
4 unsworn falsification to authorities, punishable as provided  
5 in 45-7-203.

6 ~~(2)~~(3) An applicant for registration of an automobile  
7 or a truck having a rated capacity of three-quarters of a  
8 ton or less, who wishes to register the vehicle by mail  
9 must:

10 (a) sign a statement on the application stating that  
11 the applicant is in compliance with the financial liability  
12 requirements of 61-6-301; and

13 (b) attach a legible photocopy of the insurance card  
14 issued pursuant to subsection (5) for the motor vehicle  
15 being registered.

16 ~~(3)~~(4) An owner of a motor vehicle who ceases to  
17 maintain the insurance or bond required or whose certificate  
18 of self-insurance is canceled or whose vehicle ceases to be  
19 exempt shall immediately surrender the registration and  
20 license plates for the vehicle to the county treasurer for  
21 delivery to the division and may not operate or permit  
22 operation of the vehicle in Montana until insurance has  
23 again been furnished as required and the vehicle is again  
24 registered and licensed.

25 ~~(4)~~(5) Every person shall carry in a motor vehicle



1 being operated by him an insurance card approved by the  
 2 division but issued by the insurance carrier to the motor  
 3 vehicle owner as proof of compliance with 61-6-301. A motor  
 4 vehicle operator shall exhibit the insurance card upon  
 5 demand of a justice of the peace, a peace officer, a highway  
 6 patrolman, or a field deputy or inspector of the division.  
 7 However, no person charged with violating this subsection  
 8 may be convicted if he produces in court or the office of  
 9 the arresting officer proof of insurance valid at the time  
 10 of his arrest."

11 Section 2. Section 61-6-304, MCA, is amended to read:  
 12 "61-6-304. Penalties -- proof of financial  
 13 responsibility. (1) It is unlawful for any person to  
 14 operate a motor vehicle upon highways, streets, or roadways  
 15 of this state without a valid policy of liability insurance  
 16 in effect in an amount not less than that provided in  
 17 61-6-301 or unless such person has been issued a certificate  
 18 of self-insurance pursuant to 61-6-143 or has previously  
 19 posted an indemnity bond with the division of motor vehicles  
 20 as provided by 61-6-301 or is operating a vehicle exempt  
 21 under 61-6-303. A violation of ~~61-6-301 through 61-6-304~~  
 22 this part is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to  
 23 exceed \$250.

24 (2) The division, upon receiving a record of  
 25 conviction or forfeiture of bail, not vacated, for an

1 offense under this part, shall within 20 days suspend the  
 2 driver's license or nonresident operating privilege of the  
 3 person convicted:

4 (a) for 1 year; or

5 (b) until such person gives and thereafter maintains  
 6 with the division for 1 year proof of financial  
 7 responsibility as provided in 61-6-132."

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