# SENATE BILL NO. 333

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# INTRODUCED BY CHRISTIAENS, MILLER, MAZUREK, GOODOVER, THAYER, GAGE, HAGER, PHILLIPS, TOWE, HARBIN, NISBET, HARDING

IN THE SENATE

February 7, 1985	Introduced and referred to Committee on Business and Industry.
February 16, 1985	Committee recommend bill do pass as amended. Report adopted.
February 18, 1985	Bill printed and placed on members' desks.
February 19, 1985	Second reading, do pass.
February 20, 1985	Considered correctly engrossed.
February 21, 1985	Third reading, passed. Ayes, 48; Noes, 0.
	Transmitted to House.
IN THE H	OUSE
February 27, 1985	Introduced and referred to Committee on Business and Labor.
March 20, 1985	Committee recommend bill be concurred in. Report adopted.
March 23, 1985	Second reading, concurred in.
March 25, 1985	Third reading, concurred in.
	Returned to Senate.

## IN THE SENATE

March 25, 1985

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March 26, 1985

Received from House. Sent to enrolling. Reported correctly enrolled. LC 1755/01

BILL NO. 1 INTRODUCED BY L 2 3 "AN ACT TO ALLOW A CREDITOR OR Phyled A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED! 4 SECURED PARTY TO RECORD A LIEN OR SECURITY INTEREST AND 5 TRANSFER TITLE IF THE OWNER HAS NOT TRANSFERRED TITLE AND 6 7 REGISTERED THE VEHICLE WITHIN THE STATUTORY 20-DAY GRACE PERIOD; AMENDING SECTIONS 61-3-103, 61-3-201, AND 61-3-202, 8 9 MCA."

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BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA: 11 12 Section 1. Section 61-3-103, MCA, is amended to read: 13 "61-3-103. Filing of security interests, rights, procedure, fees. (1) No security interest in a motor vehicle 14 15 shall be valid as against creditors, subsequent purchasers, or encumbrancers unless the security agreement or other lien 16 17 instrument that creates the security interest or a true copy 18 thereof certified by a notary public has been filed with the division as provided in this section. The division shall not 19 file any security agreement or other lien instrument unless 20 it is accompanied by the certificate of ownership of the 21 22 vehicle encumbered, except in the sale of a new motor 23 vehicle by a duly licensed dealer. The division shall file 24 the security agreement, lien instrument, or its certified copy by entering upon its records the name and address of 25

1 the secured party together with the amount of the security 2 interest and, except as provided in subsection (2), shall 3 endorse the same information upon the face of the 4 certificate of ownership. The Except when the transfer of 5 ownership and filing of the security interest are paid for 6 by a creditor or secured party as provided in 61-3-201, the 7 division shall mail a statement certifying to the filing of a security agreement or lien instrument to the secured party 8 and mail the certificate of ownership to the owner at the 9 10 address given on the certificate. When the transfer of 11 ownership and filing of the security interest are paid for by a creditor or secured party, the division shall return 12 13 the certificate of ownership to the county treasurer where 14 the vehicle is to be registered. The owner of a motor vehicle is the person entitled to operate and possess such 15 16 motor vehicle. 17 (2) Whenever a security agreement or lien instrument is filed against a motor vehicle that is subject to two

18 19 security interests previously perfected by filing under this 20 section, the division shall endorse on the face of the certificate of ownership, "NOTICE. This motor vehicle is 21 22 subject to additional security interests on file with the Division of Motor Vehicles." No other information regarding 23 such additional security interests need be endorsed on the 24 25 certificate. INTRODUCED BILL

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(3) Satisfactions or statements of release filed with 1 2 the division under this chapter shall be retained by it for a period of 8 years after receipt, after which they may be 3 Δ destroyed. Security agreements and other lien instruments filed with the division, and all renewals and assignments 5 thereof, shall be retained by it for a period of 8 years 6 after the maturity date stated in the security agreement, 7 lien instrument, or renewal, or if no maturity date is 8 9 therein stated, for a period of 13 years after receipt. 10 after which they may be destroyed.

11 (4) The filing of a security agreement or other lien 12 instrument or copy thereof, as herein provided, perfects a security interest which has attached under the document 13 filed. Filing of a security agreement or other lien 14 15 instrument constitutes constructive notice to subsequent purchasers or encumbrancers, from the time of filing, of the 16 17 existence of the security interest created by the document filed. 18

19 (5) Upon default under a chattel mortgage or 20 conditional sales contract covering a motor vehicle, the 21 mortgagee or vendor has the same remedies as in the case of 22 other personal property. In case of attachment of motor 23 vehicles all the provisions of 27-18-413, 27-18-414, and 24 27-18-804 shall be applicable except that deposits must be 25 made with the division. 1 (6) A conditional sales vendor or chattel mortgagee or 2 assignee who fails to file a satisfaction of a chattel 3 mortgage, assignment, or conditional sales contract within 4 15 days after receiving final payment shall be required to 5 pay the division the sum of \$1 for each day thereafter that 6 he fails to file such satisfaction.

7 (7) Upon receipt of any liens, or notice of liens я dependent on possession, or attachments, etc., against the 9 record of any motor vehicle registered in this state, the 10 division shall within 24 hours mail to the owner, 11 conditional sale vendor, mortgagees, or assignees of any thereof a notice showing the name and address of the lien 12 13 claimant, amount of the lien, date of execution of lien, and 14 in the case of attachment the full title of the court and 15 the action and the name of the attorneys for the plaintiff 16 and/or attaching creditor.

17 (8) It shall not be necessary to refile with the division any instruments on file in the offices of the county clerk and recorders at the time this law takes effect.

(9) A fee of \$3 shall be paid to the division to file
any security agreement or other lien instrument against a
motor vehicle. The \$3 fee shall include and cover the cost
of filing a satisfaction or release of the security interest
and also the cost of entering such satisfaction or release

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1 on the records of the division and deleting the endorsement 2 of the security interest from the face of the certificate of 3 ownership. A fee of S3 shall be paid the division for issuing a certified copy of a security agreement or other 4 lien instrument on file in the office of the division, or 5 for filing an assignment of any instrument on file with the 6 7 division. All fees provided for in this section shall be deposited by the division in the motor vehicle recording 8 9 account of the state special revenue fund."

10 Section 2. Section 61-3-201, MCA, is amended to read: 11 "61-3-201. Transfer of interest. (1) Upon a transfer of any interest in a motor vehicle registered under the 12 13 provisions of this chapter, the person whose interest is to 14 be transferred shall write his signature with pen and ink 15 upon the certificate of ownership issued for such vehicle in 16 the appropriate space provided upon the reverse side of the certificate, and his signature shall be acknowledged before 17 18 a notary public.

19 (2) Within 20 calendar days thereafter, the transferee 20 shall forward both the endorsed certificate of ownership and 21 the certificate of registration, together with the 22 information required under 61-3-202, to the county 23 treasurer, who shall forward them to the division. No 24 certificate of ownership or certificate of registration may 25 be issued by the division until the outstanding certificates

are surrendered to that office or their loss is established 1 2 to its reasonable satisfaction. Failure to make application 3 within the 20-day grace period subjects the transferee to a penalty of \$10. The penalty is to be collected by the county 4 treasurer at the time of registration and is in addition to 5 the fees otherwise provided by law. If the transferee has 6 7 not made application within the 20-day grace period, a creditor or secured party may pay the fees for the transfer 8 of title and filing of security interest or lien in order to 9 have title transferred to the transferee and have the 10 11 security interest or lien filed. The creditor or secured party is not liable for the penalty or registration fees. 12 The division shall return the certificate of title to the 13 county treasurer as provided in 61-3-103(1). When the 14 certificate of ownership is returned by the division to the 15 county treasurer, the treasurer shall hold the certificate 16 17 of ownership until the vehicle is properly registered. (3) In the event of a transfer by operation of law of 18

any interest in a motor vehicle as upon inheritance, devise, or bequest, order in bankruptcy or insolvency, execution sale, repossession upon default in the performance of the terms of a lease or executory sales contract, or otherwise than by voluntary act of the person whose title or interest is transferred, the executor, administrator, receiver, trustee, sheriff, or other representative or successor in

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interest of the person whose interest is transferred shall 1 forward to the division an application for a certificate of 2 ownership in the form required for an original application 3 for a certificate of ownership, together with a verified or 4 certified statement of the transfer of such interest. The 5 statement shall set forth the reason for the involuntary 6 7 transfer, the interest so transferred, the name of the person to whom the interest is to be transferred, the 8 process of procedure effecting such transfer, and other 9 information requested by the division. Evidence and 10 instruments otherwise required by law to effect a transfer 11 12 of legal or equitable title to or an interest in chattels as may be required in such cases shall be furnished with the 13 14 statement. If the division is satisfied that the transfer is regular and that all formalities required by law have been 15 complied with, it shall send to the owner, conditional sales 16 vendor, lessor, mortgagee, and other lienor, as shown by its 17 records, notice of the intended transfer and thereafter, but 18 not less than 5 days thereafter, shall issue a new 19 20 certificate of ownership and certificate of registration to the person entitled thereto. The notice herein required is 21 complied with by deposit in the post office in Deer Lodge, 22 Montana, such notice, postage prepaid, addressed to the 23 person at the respective address shown on its records. 24

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(4) When the vehicle certificate of ownership that is

involuntarily transferred is not registered in this state, the procedure set forth above must be followed in applying for a new certificate of ownership and certificate of registration but the division need not send notice of intended transfer and shall issue a new certificate of ownership and a new certificate of registration to the person entitled thereto.

(5) (a) In the event of the death of the owner of one 8 more motor vehicles, trailers, semitrailers, or 9 or housetrailers registered hereunder and not exceeding a 10 combined value of \$15,000 without leaving other property 11 necessitating the procuring of letters of administration or 12 13 letters testamentary, then the surviving spouse or other heir unless such property is by will otherwise bequeathed 14 secure transfer of the decedent's certificate of 15 mav ownership and the certificate of registration for the 16 vehicle. 17

(b) The person seeking transfer of the certificate of
ownership shall file an affidavit with the division setting
forth the fact of survivorship and the name and address of
any other heirs and such other facts as are hereby made
necessary to entitle the affiant to a transfer.

(c) The division is authorized to transfer the
certificate of ownership and certificate of registration,
subject to all security interests shown by its records, upon

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receipt of an affidavit showing that the affiant is entitled
 to a transfer under the provisions of subsection (5)(a) of
 this section.

4 (6) Nothing in subsection (5) shall prevent any 5 secured party from assigning his interest in a motor vehicle registered under the provisions of this chapter to any other 6 7 person without the consent of and without affecting the interest of the holder of the certificate of ownership and 8 9 certificate of registration. Upon any assignment by a secured party of his security interest in any motor vehicle 10 11 registered under this chapter, a copy of such assignment 12 must be filed with the division and record thereof made upon 13 its records.

14 (7) The certificates of ownership shall remain valid
15 until canceled by the division upon a transfer of any
16 interest shown therein and need not be renewed annually."

17 Section 3. Section 61-3-202, MCA, is amended to read: 18 "61-3-202. Certificate of ownership -- issuance -contents -- joint ownership. (1) Upon completion of the 19 application for certificate of ownership, on forms furnished 20 by the division, the county treasurer shall forward one copy 21 22 of the application to the division, which shall enter the 23 information contained in the application upon the corresponding records of its office and, except as provided 24 in 61-3-103(1) and 61-3-201(2) concerning applications by 25

creditors or secured parties, shall furnish the applicant a
 certificate of ownership subject to the provisions of
 61-3-103.

4 (2) The certificate of ownership shall contain upon5 the face thereof:

6 (a) the date issued;

7 (b) the name and complete address of the owner or the
8 names and addresses of joint owners;

9 (c) except as provided in 61-3-103(2), the name and 10 complete address of any holder of a perfected security 11 interest in the registered vehicle;

12 (d) a description of the registered vehicle, including
13 the year built and serial number;

14 (e) except as provided in 61-3-103(2), the filing date
15 of any lien against such motor vehicle; and

16 (f) such other statement of facts as may be determined17 by the division.

(3) When the names and addresses of more than one.
owner who are members of the same immediate family are
listed on the certificate of ownership, joint ownership with
right of survivorship, and not as tenants in common, is
presumed.

23 (4) Upon receipt of the application, the division
24 shall recheck the application. If there is any error in the
25 application it may be returned to the county treasurer to

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effectively secure the correction of such error, who shall
 return the same to the division.

3 (5) The certificate of ownership shall contain a 4 notice to the division of a transfer of interest of the 5 owner and such other statements as may be determined by the 6 division."

7 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> Section 4. Extension of authority. Any 8 existing authority of the department of justice, division of 9 motor vehicles, to make rules on the subject of the 10 provisions of this act is extended to the provisions of this 11 act.

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## 49th Legislature

SB 0333/02

## APPROVED BY COMM. ON BUSINESS & INDUSTRY

1	SENATE BILL NO. 333
2	INTRODUCED BY CHRISTIAENS, MILLER, MAZUREK,
3	GOODOVER, THAYER, GAGE, HAGER, PHILLIPS,
4	TOWE, HARBIN, NISBET, HARDING
5	
6	A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT TO ALLOW A CREDITOR OR
7	SECURED PARTY TO RECORD A LIEN OR SECURITY INTEREST AND
8	TRANSFER TITLE IF THE OWNER HAS NOT TRANSFERRED TITLE AND
9	REGISTERED THE VEHICLE WITHIN THE STATUTORY 20-DAY GRACE
10	PERIOD; AMENDING SECTIONS 61-3-103, 61-3-201, AND 61-3-202,
11	MCA."
12	
13	BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:
14	Section 1. Section 61-3-103, MCA, is amended to read:
15	"61-3-103. Filing of security interests, rights,
16	procedure, fees. (1) No security interest in a motor vehicle
17	shall be valid as against creditors, subsequent purchasers,
18	or encumbrancers unless the security agreement or other lien
19	instrument that creates the security interest or a true copy
20	thereof certified by a notary public has been filed with the
21	division as provided in this section. The division shall not
22	file any security agreement or other lien instrument unless
23	it is accompanied by the certificate of ownership of the
24	vehicle encumbered, except in the sale of a new motor
25	vehicle by a duly licensed dealer. The division shall file

1	the security agreement, lien instrument, or its certified
2	copy by entering upon its records the name and address of
3	the secured party together with the amount of the security
4	interest and, except as provided in subsection (2), shall
5	endorse the same information upon the face of the
6	certificate of ownership. The Except-when-the-transfer-of
7	ownership-and-filing-of-the-security-interest-arepaidfor
8	bya-creditor-or-secured-party-as-provided-in-61-3-2017-the
9	THE division shall mail a statement certifying to the filing
10	of a security agreement or lien instrument to the secured
11	party. and THE DIVISION SHALL mail the certificate of
12	ownership to the owner at the address given on the
13	certificate: When; HOWEVER, IF the transfer of ownership and
14	filing of the security interest are paid for by a creditor
15	or secured party, the division shall return the certificate
16	of ownership to the county treasurer where the vehicle is to
17	be registered. The owner of a motor vehicle is the person
18	entitled to operate and possess such motor vehicle.
19	(2) Whenever a security agreement or lien instrument
20	is filed against a motor vehicle that is subject to two
21	security interests previously perfected by filing under this
22	section, the division shall endorse on the face of the
23	certificate of ownership, "NOTICE. This motor vehicle is
24	subject to additional security interests on file with the
25	Division of Motor Vehicles." No other information regarding

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SB 333 Second Reading

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such additional security interests need be endorsed on the
 certificate.

(3) Satisfactions or statements of release filed with 3 the division under this chapter shall be retained by it for 4 a period of 8 years after receipt, after which they may be 5 destroyed. Security agreements and other lien instruments 6 filed with the division, and all renewals and assignments 7 thereof, shall be retained by it for a period of 8 years 8 after the maturity date stated in the security agreement. q 10 lien instrument, or renewal, or if no maturity date is 11 therein stated, for a period of 13 years after receipt, after which they may be destroyed. 12

(4) The filing of a security agreement or other lien 13 instrument or copy thereof, as herein provided, perfects a 14 security interest which has attached under the document 15 16 filed. Filing of a security agreement or other lien instrument constitutes constructive notice to subsequent 17 purchasers or encumbrancers, from the time of filing, of the 18 existence of the security interest created by the document 19 filed. 20

(5) Upon default under a chattel mortgage or
conditional sales contract covering a motor vehicle, the
mortgagee or vendor has the same remedies as in the case of
other personal property. In case of attachment of motor
vehicles all the provisions of 27-18-413, 27-18-414, and

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27-18-804 shall be applicable except that deposits must be
 made with the division.

3 (6) A conditional sales vendor or chattel mortgagee or assignee who fails to file a satisfaction of a chattel mortgage, assignment, or conditional sales contract within 15 days after receiving final payment shall be required to pay the division the sum of \$1 for each day thereafter that he fails to file such satisfaction.

(7) Upon receipt of any liens, or notice of liens 9 dependent on possession, or attachments, etc., against the 10 record of any motor vehicle registered in this state, the 11 division shall within 24 hours mail to the owner, 12 conditional sale vendor, mortgagees, or assignees of any 13 14 thereof a notice showing the name and address of the lien 15 claimant, amount of the lien, date of execution of lien, and in the case of attachment the full title of the court and 16 the action and the name of the attorneys for the plaintiff 17 and/or attaching creditor. 18

19 (8) It shall not be necessary to refile with the 20 division any instruments on file in the offices of the 21 county clerk and recorders at the time this law takes 22 effect.

23 (9) A fee of \$3 shall be paid to the division to file
24 any security agreement or other lien instrument against a
25 motor vehicle. The \$3 fee shall include and cover the cost

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of filing a satisfaction or release of the security interest 1 and also the cost of entering such satisfaction or release 2 on the records of the division and deleting the endorsement 3 of the security interest from the face of the certificate of 4 ownership. A fee of \$3 shall be paid the division for 5 issuing a certified copy of a security agreement or other б lien instrument on file in the office of the division, or 7 for filing an assignment of any instrument on file with the 8 division. All fees provided for in this section shall be 9 deposited by the division in the motor vehicle recording 10 account of the state special revenue fund." 11

Section 2. Section 61-3-201, MCA, is amended to read: 12 "61-3-201. Transfer of interest. (1) Upon a transfer 13 of any interest in a motor vehicle registered under the 14 provisions of this chapter, the person whose interest is to 15 be transferred shall write his signature with pen and ink 16 upon the certificate of ownership issued for such vehicle in 17 the appropriate space provided upon the reverse side of the 18 certificate, and his signature shall be acknowledged before 19 a notary public. 20

21 (2) Within 20 calendar days thereafter, the transferee 22 shall forward both the endorsed certificate of ownership and 23 the certificate of registration, together with the 24 information required ander 61-3-202, to the county 25 treasurer, who shall forward them to the division. No

1	certificate of ownership or certificate of registration may
2	be issued by the division until the outstanding certificates
3	are surrendered to that office or their loss is established
4	to its reasonable satisfaction. Failure to make application
5	within the 20-day grace period subjects the transferee to a
6	penalty of \$10. The penalty is to be collected by the county
7	treasurer at the time of registration and is in addition to
8	the fees otherwise provided by law. If the transferee has
9	not made application within the-20-day-grace-period 25 DAYS,
10	a creditor or secured party may pay the fees for the
11	transfer of title and filing of security interest or lien in
12	order to have title transferred to the transferee and have
13	the security interest or lien filed. The creditor or secured
14	party is not liable for the penalty or, registration fees,
15	OR TAXES. The division shall return the certificate of
16	title to the county treasurer as provided in 61-3-103(1).
17	When the certificate of ownership is returned by the
18	division to the county treasurer, the treasurer shall hold
19	the certificate of ownership until the vehicle is properly
20	registered.
21	(3) In the event of a transfer by operation of law of
22	any interest in a motor vehicle as upon inheritance, devise,
23	or bequest, order in bankruptcy or insolvency, execution
24	sale, repossession upon default in the performance of the

25 terms of a lease or executory sales contract, or otherwise

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than by voluntary act of the person whose title or interest 1 2 is transferred, the executor, administrator, receiver. 3 trustee, sheriff, or other representative or successor in 4 interest of the person whose interest is transferred shall forward to the division an application for a certificate of 5 ownership in the form required for an original application 6 for a certificate of ownership, together with a verified or 7 certified statement of the transfer of such interest. The 8 9 statement shall set forth the reason for the involuntary transfer, the interest so transferred, the name of the 10 person to whom the interest is to be transferred, the 11 process of procedure effecting such transfer, and other 12 information requested by the division. Evidence and 13 14 instruments otherwise required by law to effect a transfer of legal or equitable title to or an interest in chattels as 15 may be required in such cases shall be furnished with the 16 statement. If the division is satisfied that the transfer is 17 regular and that all formalities required by law have been 18 complied with, it shall send to the owner, conditional sales 19 20 vendor, lessor, mortgagee, and other lienor, as shown by its records, notice of the intended transfer and thereafter, but 21 less than 5 days thereafter, shall issue a new 22 not certificate of ownership and certificate of registration to 23 the person entitled thereto. The notice herein required is 24 complied with by deposit in the post office in Deer Lodge, 25

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Montana, such notice, postage prepaid, addressed to the
 person at the respective address shown on its records.

(4) When the vehicle certificate of ownership that is 3 involuntarily transferred is not registered in this state, 4 the procedure set forth above must be followed in applying 5 for a new certificate of ownership and certificate of 6 registration but the division need not send notice of 7 intended transfer and shall issue a new certificate of 8 ownership and a new certificate of registration to the 9 person entitled thereto. 10

(5) (a) In the event of the death of the owner of one 11 12 or more motor vehicles, trailers, semitrailers, or housetrailers registered hereunder and not exceeding a 13 combined value of \$15,000 without leaving other property 14 necessitating the procuring of letters of administration or 15 16 letters testamentary, then the surviving spouse or other heir unless such property is by will otherwise bequeathed 17 may secure transfer of the decedent's certificate of 18 19 ownership and the certificate of registration for the 20 vehicle.

(b) The person seeking transfer of the certificate of
ownership shall file an affidavit with the division setting
forth the fact of survivorship and the name and address of
any other heirs and such other facts as are hereby made
necessary to entitle the affiant to a transfer.

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1 (c) The division is authorized to transfer the 2 certificate of ownership and certificate of registration, 3 subject to all security interests shown by its records, upon 4 receipt of an affidavit showing that the affiant is entitled 5 to a transfer under the provisions of subsection (5)(a) of 6 this section.

(5) Nothing in subsection (5) shall prevent any 7 secured party from assigning his interest in a motor vehicle 8 registered under the provisions of this chapter to any other g person without the consent of and without affecting the 10 interest of the holder of the certificate of ownership and 11 certificate of registration. Upon any assignment by a 12 secured party of his security interest in any motor vehicle 13 registered under this chapter, a copy of such assignment 14 must be filed with the division and record thereof made upon 15 its records. 16

17 (7) The certificates of ownership shall remain valid 18 until canceled by the division upon a transfer of any 19 interest shown therein and need not be renewed annually."

20 Section 3. Section 61-3-202, MCA, is amended to read: 21 "61-3-202. Certificate of ownership -- issuance --22 contents -- joint ownership. (1) Upon completion of the 23 application for certificate of ownership, on forms furnished 24 by the division, the county treasurer shall forward one copy 25 of the application to the division, which shall enter the

information contained in the application upon the 1 corresponding records of its office and, except as provided 2 in 61-3-103(1) and 61-3-201(2) concerning applications by 3 creditors or secured parties, shall furnish the applicant a 4 5 certificate of ownership subject to the provisions of б 61-3-103. (2) The certificate of ownership shall contain upon 7 8 the face thereof: (a) the date issued: 9 (b) the name and complete address of the owner or the 10 11 names and addresses of joint owners; 12 (c) except as provided in 61-3-103(2), the name and 13 complete address of any holder of a perfected security interest in the registered vehicle; 14 (d) a description of the registered vehicle, including 15 16 the year built and serial number; 17 (e) except as provided in 61-3-103(2), the filing date 18 of any lien against such motor vehicle; and 19 (f) such other statement of facts as may be determined by the division. 20 (3) When the names and addresses of more than one 21 22 owner who are members of the same immediate family are listed on the certificate of ownership, joint ownership with 23 24 right of survivorship, and not as tenants in common, is presumed. 25

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1 (4) Upon receipt of the application, the division 2 shall recheck the application. If there is any error in the 3 application it may be returned to the county treasurer to 4 effectively secure the correction of such error, who shall 5 return the same to the division.

6 (5) The certificate of ownership shall contain a 7 notice to the division of a transfer of interest of the 8 owner and such other statements as may be determined by the 9 division."

10 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> Section 4. Extension of authority. Any 11 existing authority of the department of justice, division of 12 motor vehicles, to make rules on the subject of the 13 provisions of this act is extended to the provisions of this 14 act.

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#### 49th Legislature

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#### SB 0333/02

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1	SENATE BILL NO. 333
2	INTRODUCED BY CHRISTIAENS, MILLER, MAZUREK,
3	GOODOVER, THAYER, GAGE, HAGER, PHILLIPS,
4	TOWE, HARBIN, NISBET, HARDING
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6	A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT TO ALLOW A CREDITOR OR
7	SECURED PARTY TO RECORD A LIEN OR SECURITY INTEREST AND
. 8	TRANSFER TITLE IF THE OWNER HAS NOT TRANSFERRED TITLE AND
9	REGISTERED THE VEHICLE WITHIN THE STATUTORY 20-DAY GRACE
10	PERIOD; AMENDING SECTIONS 61-3-103, 61-3-201, AND 61-3-202,
11	HCA."
12	
13	BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:
14	Section 1. Section 61-3-103, MCA, is amended to read:
15	*61-3-103. Filing of security interests, rights,
16	procedure, fees. (1) No security interest in a motor vehicle
17	shall be valid as against creditors, subsequent purchasers,
18	or encumbrancers unless the security agreement or other lien
19	instrument that creates the security interest or a true copy
20	thereof certified by a notary public has been filed with the
21	division as provided in this section. The division shall not
22	file any security agreement or other lien instrument unless
23	it is accompanied by the certificate of ownership of the
24	vehicle encumbered, except in the sale of a new motor

vehicle by a duly licensed dealer. The division shall file

1 the security agreement, lien instrument, or its certified 2 copy by entering upon its records the name and address of 3 the secured party together with the amount of the security 4 interest and, except as provided in subsection (2), shall endorse the same information upon the face of 5 the certificate of ownership. The Except-when-the-transfer-of 6 ownership-and-filing-of-the-security-interest-are--paid--for 7 by--a-creditor-or-secured-party-as-provided-in-61-3-2017-the R 9 THE division shall mail a statement certifying to the filing 10 of a security agreement or lien instrument to the secured 11 party. and THE DIVISION SHALL mail the certificate of ownership to the owner at the address given on 12 the certificater When; HOWEVER, IF the transfer of ownership and 13 filing of the security interest are paid for by a creditor 14 15 or secured party, the division shall return the certificate 16 of ownership to the county treasurer where the vehicle is to 17 be registered. The owner of a motor vehicle is the person 18 entitled to operate and possess such motor vehicle. 19 (2) Whenever a security agreement or lien instrument

is filed against a motor vehicle that is subject to two security interests previously perfected by filing under this section, the division shall endorse on the face of the certificate of ownership, "<u>NOTICE</u>. This motor vehicle is subject to additional security interests on file with the Division of Motor Vehicles." No other information regarding

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## THIRD READING

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such additional security interests need be endorsed on the
 certificate.

(3) Satisfactions or statements of release filed with 3 4 the division under this chapter shall be retained by it for a period of 8 years after receipt, after which they may be 5 destroyed. Security agreements and other lien instruments 6 filed with the division, and all renewals and assignments 7 thereof, shall be retained by it for a period of 8 years я after the maturity date stated in the security agreement, 9 lien instrument, or renewal, or if no maturity date is 10 11 therein stated, for a period of 13 years after receipt. after which they may be destroyed. 12

(4) The filing of a security agreement or other lien 13 instrument or copy thereof, as herein provided, perfects a 14 security interest which has attached under the document 15 filed. Filing of a security agreement or other lien 16 instrument constitutes constructive notice to subsequent 17 purchasers or encumbrancers, from the time of filing, of the 18 existence of the security interest created by the document 19 filed. 20

(5) Upon default under a chattel mortgage or
conditional sales contract covering a motor vehicle, the
mortgagee or vendor has the same remedies as in the case of
other personal property. In case of attachment of motor
vehicles all the provisions of 27-18-413, 27+18-414, and

27-18-804 shall be applicable except that deposits must be made with the division.

3 (6) A conditional sales vendor or chattel mortgagee or 4 assignee who fails to file a satisfaction of a chattel 5 mortgage, assignment, or conditional sales contract within 6 15 days after receiving final payment shall be required to 7 pay the division the sum of \$1 for each day thereafter that 8 he fails to file such satisfaction.

9 (7) Upon receipt of any liens, or notice of liens dependent on possession, or attachments, etc., against the 10 record of any motor vehicle registered in this state, the 11 division shall within 24 hours mail to the owner. 12 conditional sale vendor, mortgagees, or assignees of any 13 thereof a notice showing the name and address of the lien 14 15 claimant, amount of the lien, date of execution of lien, and 16 in the case of attachment the full title of the court and the action and the name of the attorneys for the plaintiff 17 and/or attaching creditor. 18

19 (8) It shall not be necessary to refile with the 20 division any instruments on file in the offices of the 21 county clerk and recorders at the time this law takes 22 effect.

(9) A fee of \$3 shall be paid to the division to file
any security agreement or other lien instrument against a
motor vehicle. The \$3 fee shall include and cover the cost

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of filing a satisfaction or release of the security interest 1 and also the cost of entering such satisfaction or release 2 on the records of the division and deleting the endorsement 3 of the security interest from the face of the certificate of 4 ownership. A fee of \$3 shall be paid the division for 5 issuing a certified copy of a security agreement or other 6 7 lien instrument on file in the office of the division, or for filing an assignment of any instrument on file with the 8 division. All fees provided for in this section shall be 9 deposited by the division in the motor vehicle recording 10 account of the state special revenue fund." 11

Section 2. Section 61-3-201, MCA, is amended to read: 12 "61-3-201. Transfer of interest. (1) Upon a transfer 13 14 of any interest in a motor vehicle registered under the provisions of this chapter, the person whose interest is to 15 be transferred shall write his signature with pen and ink 16 upon the certificate of ownership issued for such vehicle in 17 the appropriate space provided upon the reverse side of the 18 certificate, and his signature shall be acknowledged before 19 a notary public. 20

(2) Within 20 calendar days thereafter, the transferee
 shall forward both the endorsed certificate of ownership and
 the certificate of registration, together with the
 information required under 61-3-202, to the county
 treasurer, who shall forward them to the division. No

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l	certificate of ownership or certificate of registration may
2	be issued by the division until the outstanding certificates
3	are surrendered to that office or their loss is established
4	to its reasonable satisfaction. Failure to make application
5	within the 20-day grace period subjects the transferee to a
6	penalty of \$10. The penalty is to be collected by the county
7	treasurer at the time of registration and is in addition to
8	the fees otherwise provided by law. If the transferee has
9	not made application within the-20-day-grace-period 25 DAYS,
10	a creditor or secured party may pay the fees for the
11	transfer of title and filing of security interest or lien in
12	order to have title transferred to the transferee and have
13	the security interest or lien filed. The creditor or secured
14	party is not liable for the penalty or, registration fees,
15	OR TAXES. The division shall return the certificate of
16	title to the county treasurer as provided in 61-3-103(1).
17	When the certificate of ownership is returned by the
18	division to the county treasurer, the treasurer shall hold
19	the certificate of ownership until the vehicle is properly
20	registered.
21	(3) In the event of a transfer by operation of law of
22	any interest in a motor vehicle as upon inheritance, devise,

or bequest, order in bankruptcy or insolvency, execution sale, repossession upon default in the performance of the terms of a lease or executory sales contract, or otherwise

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than by voluntary act of the person whose title or interest 1 is transferred, the executor, administrator,' receiver, 2 3 trustee, sheriff, or other representative or successor in interest of the person whose interest is transferred shall 4 forward to the division an application for a certificate of 5 ownership in the form required for an original application 6 for a certificate of ownership, together with a verified or 7 certified statement of the transfer of such interest. The 8 statement shall set forth the reason for the involuntary 9 10 transfer, the interest so transferred, the name of the 11 person to whom the interest is to be transferred, the process of procedure effecting such transfer, and other 12 information requested by the division. Evidence and 13 instruments otherwise required by law to effect a transfer 14 of legal or equitable title to or an interest in chattels as 15 may be required in such cases shall be furnished with the 16 17 statement. If the division is satisfied that the transfer is regular and that all formalities required by law have been 18 complied with, it shall send to the owner, conditional sales 19 vendor, lessor, mortgagee, and other lienor, as shown by its 20 records, notice of the intended transfer and thereafter, but 21 not less than 5 days thereafter, shall issue a new 22 certificate of ownership and certificate of registration to 23 the person entitled thereto. The notice herein required is 24 complied with by deposit in the post office in Deer Lodge. 25

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Montana, such notice, postage prepaid, addressed to the
 person at the respective address shown on its records.

(4) When the vehicle certificate of ownership that is 3 involuntarily transferred is not registered in this state, 4 the procedure set forth above must be followed in applying 5 for a new certificate of ownership and certificate of 6 7 registration but the division need not send notice of intended transfer and shall issue a new certificate of 8 ownership and a new certificate of registration to the 9 10 person entitled thereto.

(5) (a) In the event of the death of the owner of one 11 12 or more motor vehicles, trailers, semitrailers, or housetrailers registered hereunder and not exceeding a 13 combined value of \$15,000 without leaving other property 14 necessitating the procuring of letters of administration or 15 letters testamentary, then the surviving spouse or other 16 17 heir unless such property is by will otherwise bequeathed may secure transfer of the decedent's certificate of 18 ownership and the certificate of registration for the 19 20 vehicle.

(b) The person seeking transfer of the certificate of
ownership shall file an affidavit with the division setting
forth the fact of survivorship and the name and address of
any other heirs and such other facts as are hereby made
necessary to entitle the affiant to a transfer.

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1 (c) The division is authorized to transfer the 2 certificate of ownership and certificate of registration, 3 subject to all security interests shown by its records, upon 4 receipt of an affidavit showing that the affiant is entitled 5 to a transfer under the provisions of subsection (5)(a) of 6 this section.

(6) Nothing in subsection (5) shall prevent any 7 secured party from assigning his interest in a motor vehicle 8 registered under the provisions of this chapter to any other 9 person without the consent of and without affecting the 10 interest of the holder of the certificate of ownership and 11 certificate of registration. Upon any assignment by a 12 secured party of his security interest in any motor vehicle 13 registered under this chapter, a copy of such assignment 14 15 must be filed with the division and record thereof made upon 16 its records.

17 (7) The certificates of ownership shall remain valid
18 until canceled by the division upon a transfer of any
19 interest shown therein and need not be renewed annually."

20 Section 3. Section 61-3-202, MCA, is amended to read: 21 "61-3-202. Certificate of ownership -- issuance --22 contents -- joint ownership. (1) Upon completion of the 23 application for certificate of ownership, on forms furnished 24 by the division, the county treasurer shall forward one copy 25 of the application to the division, which shall enter the

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information contained in the application upon the corresponding records of its office and, except as provided in 61-3-103(1) and 61-3-201(2) concerning applications by creditors or secured parties, shall furnish the applicant a certificate of ownership subject to the provisions of 6 61-3-103.

7 (2) The certificate of ownership shall contain upon8 the face thereof:

(a) the date issued;

9

10 (b) the name and complete address of the owner or the11 names and addresses of joint owners;

12 (c) except as provided in 61-3-103(2), the name and
 13 complete address of any holder of a perfected security
 14 interest in the registered vehicle;

15 (d) a description of the registered vehicle, including16 the year built and serial number;

17 (e) except as provided in 61-3-103(2), the filing date18 of any lien against such motor vehicle; and

19 (f) such other statement of facts as may be determined20 by the division.

21 (3) When the names and addresses of more than one 22 owner who are members of the same immediate family are 23 listed on the certificate of ownership, joint ownership with 24 right of survivorship, and not as tenants in common, is 25 presumed.

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1 (4) Upon receipt of the application, the division 2 shall recheck the application. If there is any error in the 3 application it may be returned to the county treasurer to 4 effectively secure the correction of such error, who shall 5 return the same to the division.

6 (5) The certificate of ownership shall contain a
7 notice to the division of a transfer of interest of the
8 owner and such other statements as may be determined by the
9 division."

10 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> Section 4. Extension of authority. Any 11 existing authority of the department of justice, division of 12 motor vehicles, to make rules on the subject of the 13 provisions of this act is extended to the provisions of this 14 act.

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1	SENATE BILL NO. 333	1	the security agreement, lien instrument, or its certified
2	INTRODUCED BY CHRISTIAENS, MILLER, MAZUREK,	2	copy by entering upon its records the name and address of
3	GOODOVER, THAYER, GAGE, HAGER, PHILLIPS,	3	the secured party together with the amount of the security
4	TOWE, HARBIN, NISBET, HARDING	4	interest and, except as provided in subsection (2), shall
5		5	endorse the same information upon the face of the
6	A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT TO ALLOW A CREDITOR OR	6	certificate of ownership. The Except-when-the-transfer-of
7	SECURED PARTY TO RECORD A LIEN OR SECURITY INTEREST AND	7	ownership-and-filing-of-the-security-interest-arepaidfor
8	TRANSFER TITLE IF THE OWNER HAS NOT TRANSFERRED TITLE AND	8	bya-creditor-or-secured-party-as-provided-in-61-3-2017-the
9	REGISTERED THE VEHICLE WITHIN THE STATUTORY 20-DAY GRACE	9	$\underline{\text{THE}}$ division shall mail a statement certifying to the filing
10	PERIOD; AMENDING SECTIONS 61-3-103, 61-3-201, AND 61-3-202,	10	of a security agreement or lien instrument to the secured
11	MCA."	11	party. and THE DIVISION SHALL mail the certificate of
12		12	ownership to the owner at the address given on the
13	BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:	13	certificate. When; HOWEVER, IF the transfer of ownership and
14	Section 1. Section 61-3-103, MCA, is amended to read:	14	filing of the security interest are paid for by a creditor
15	"61-3-103. Filing of security interests, rights,	15	or secured party, the division shall return the certificate
16	procedure, fees. (1) No security interest in a motor vehicle	16	of ownership to the county treasurer where the vehicle is to
17	shall be valid as against creditors, subsequent purchasers,	17	be registered. The owner of a motor vehicle is the person
18	or encumbrancers unless the security agreement or other lien	18	entitled to operate and possess such motor vehicle.
19	instrument that creates the security interest or a true copy	19	(2) Whenever a security agreement or lien instrument
20	thereof certified by a notary public has been filed with the	20	is filed against a motor vehicle that is subject to two
21	division as provided in this section. The division shall not	21	security interests previously perfected by filing under this
22	file any security agreement or other lien instrument unless	22	section, the division shall endorse on the face of the
23	it is accompanied by the certificate of ownership of the	23	certificate of ownership, "NOTICE. This motor vehicle is
24	vehicle encumbered, except in the sale of a new motor	24	subject to additional security interests on file with the
25	vehicle by a duly licensed dealer. The division shall file	25	Division of Motor Vehicles." No other information regarding

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such additional security interests need be endorsed on the
 certificate.

(3) Satisfactions or statements of release filed with 3 the division under this chapter shall be retained by it for 4 5 a period of 8 years after receipt, after which they may be destroyed. Security agreements and other lien instruments 6 7 filed with the division, and all renewals and assignments thereof, shall be retained by it for a period of 8 years 8 9 after the maturity date stated in the security agreement, lien instrument, or renewal, or if no maturity date is 10 therein stated, for a period of 13 years after receipt, 11 after which they may be destroyed. 12

13 (4) The filing of a security agreement or other lien instrument or copy thereof, as herein provided, perfects a 14 15 security interest which has attached under the document 16 filed. Filing of a security agreement or other lien instrument constitutes constructive notice to subsequent 17 purchasers or encumbrancers, from the time of filing, of the 18 existence of the security interest created by the document 19 filed. 20

(5) Upon default under a chattel mortgage or
conditional sales contract covering a motor vehicle, the
mortgagee or vendor has the same remedies as in the case of
other personal property. In case of attachment of motor
vehicles all the provisions of 27-18-413, 27-18-414, and

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27-18-804 shall be applicable except that deposits must be made with the division.

3 (6) A conditional sales vendor or chattel mortgagee or 4 assignee who fails to file a satisfaction of a chattel 5 mortgage, assignment, or conditional sales contract within 6 15 days after receiving final payment shall be required to 7 pay the division the sum of \$1 for each day thereafter that 8 he fails to file such satisfaction.

(7) Upon receipt of any liens, or notice of liens 9 dependent on possession, or attachments, etc., against the 10 record of any motor vehicle registered in this state, the 11 division shall within 24 hours mail to the owner, 12 13 conditional sale vendor, mortgagees, or assignees of any thereof a notice showing the name and address of the lien 14 15 claimant, amount of the lien, date of execution of lien, and in the case of attachment the full title of the court and 16 the action and the name of the attorneys for the plaintiff 17 18 and/or attaching creditor.

19 (8) It shall not be necessary to refile with the 20 division any instruments on file in the offices of the 21 county clerk and recorders at the time this law takes 22 effect.

(9) A fee of \$3 shall be paid to the division to file
any security agreement or other lien instrument against a
motor vehicle. The \$3 fee shall include and cover the cost

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of filing a satisfaction or release of the security interest 1 and also the cost of entering such satisfaction or release 2 on the records of the division and deleting the endorsement 3 of the security interest from the face of the certificate of 4 ownership. A fee of \$3 shall be paid the division for 5 issuing a certified copy of a security agreement or other б lien instrument on file in the office of the division, or 7 for filing an assignment of any instrument on file with the 8 division. All fees provided for in this section shall be 9 deposited by the division in the motor vehicle recording 10 account of the state special revenue fund." 11

Section 2. Section 61-3-201, MCA, is amended to read: 12 "61-3-201. Transfer of interest. (1) Upon a transfer 13 of any interest in a motor vehicle registered under the 14 provisions of this chapter, the person whose interest is to 15 be transferred shall write his signature with pen and ink 16 upon the certificate of ownership issued for such vehicle in 17 the appropriate space provided upon the reverse side of the 18 certificate, and his signature shall be acknowledged before 19 a notary public. 20

(2) Within 20 calendar days thereafter, the transferee 21 shall forward both the endorsed certificate of ownership and 22 the certificate of registration, together with the 23 information required under 61-3-202, to the county 24 treasurer, who shall forward them to the division. No 25

1	certificate of ownership or certificate of registration may
2	be issued by the division until the outstanding certificates
3	are surrendered to that office or their loss is established
4	to its reasonable satisfaction. Failure to make application
5	within the 20-day grace period subjects the transferee to a
6	penalty of \$10. The penalty is to be collected by the county
7	treasurer at the time of registration and is in addition to
8	the fees otherwise provided by law. If the transferee has
9	not made application within the-20-day-grace-period 25 DAYS,
10	a creditor or secured party may pay the fees for the
11	transfer of title and filing of security interest or lien in
12	order to have title transferred to the transferee and have
13	the security interest or lien filed. The creditor or secured
14	party is not liable for the penalty or, registration fees,
15	OR TAXES. The division shall return the certificate of
16	title to the county treasurer as provided in 61-3-103(1).
17	When the certificate of ownership is returned by the
18	division to the county treasurer, the treasurer shall hold
19	the certificate of ownership until the vehicle is properly
20	registered.
21	(3) In the event of a transfer by operation of law of
22	any interest in a motor vehicle as upon inheritance, devise,

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or bequest, order in bankruptcy or insolvency, execution

sale, repossession upon default in the performance of the

terms of a lease or executory sales contract, or otherwise

than by voluntary act of the person whose title or interest 1 is transferred, the executor, administrator, receiver. 2 3 trustee, sheriff, or other representative or successor in interest of the person whose interest is transferred shall 4 5 forward to the division an application for a certificate of ownership in the form required for an original application 6 for a certificate of ownership, together with a verified or 7 certified statement of the transfer of such interest. The 8 statement shall set forth the reason for the involuntary 9 10 transfer, the interest so transferred, the name of the person to whom the interest is to be transferred, the 11 12 process of procedure effecting such transfer, and other information requested by the division. Evidence and 13 instruments otherwise required by law to effect a transfer 14 15 of legal or equitable title to or an interest in chattels as 16 may be required in such cases shall be furnished with the statement. If the division is satisfied that the transfer is 17 18 regular and that all formalities required by law have been complied with, it shall send to the owner, conditional sales 19 vendor, lessor, mortgagee, and other lienor, as shown by its 20 21 records, notice of the intended transfer and thereafter, but less than 5 days thereafter, shall issue a new 22 not certificate of ownership and certificate of registration to 23 24 the person entitled thereto. The notice herein required is complied with by deposit in the post office in Deer Lodge, 25

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Montana, such notice, postage prepaid, addressed to the
 person at the respective address shown on its records.

3 (4) When the vehicle certificate of ownership that is 4 involuntarily transferred is not registered in this state, 5 the procedure set forth above must be followed in applying for a new certificate of ownership and certificate of 6 7 registration but the division need not send notice of intended transfer and shall issue a new certificate of 8 9 ownership and a new certificate of registration to the 10 person entitled thereto.

11 (5) (a) In the event of the death of the owner of one or more motor vehicles, trailers, semitrailers, or 12 13 housetrailers registered hereunder and not exceeding a combined value of \$15,000 without leaving other property 14 15 necessitating the procuring of letters of administration or letters testamentary, then the surviving spouse or other 16 17 heir unless such property is by will otherwise bequeathed 18 may secure transfer of the decedent's certificate of ownership and the certificate of registration for the 19 vehicle. 20

(b) The person seeking transfer of the certificate of
ownership shall file an affidavit with the division setting
forth the fact of survivorship and the name and address of
any other heirs and such other facts as are hereby made
necessary to entitle the affiant to a transfer.

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1 'c) The division is authorized to transfer the 2 certificate of ownership and certificate of registration, 3 subject to all security interests shown by its records, upon 4 receipt of an affidavit showing that the affiant is entitled 5 to a transfer under the provisions of subsection (5)(a) of 6 this section.

(6) Nothing in subsection (5) shall prevent any 7 secured party from assigning his interest in a motor vehicle 8 registered under the provisions of this chapter to any other 9 person without the consent of and without affecting the 10 interest of the holder of the certificate of ownership and 11 12 certificate of registration. Upon any assignment by a secured party of his security interest in any motor vehicle 13 registered under this chapter, a copy of such assignment 14 must be filed with the division and record thereof made upon 15 its records. 16

17 (7) The certificates of ownership shall remain valid
18 until canceled by the division upon a transfer of any
19 interest shown therein and need not be renewed annually."

20 Section 3. Section 61-3-202, MCA, is amended to read: 21 "61-3-202. Certificate of ownership -- issuance --22 contents -- joint ownership. (1) Upon completion of the 23 application for certificate of ownership, on forms furnished 24 by the division, the county treasurer shall forward one copy 25 of the application to the division, which shall enter the

information contained in the application upon the 3 2 corresponding records of its office and, except as provided in 61-3-103(1) and 61-3-201(2) concerning applications by 3 creditors or secured parties, shall furnish the applicant a 4 certificate of ownership subject to the provisions of 5 61-3-103. 6 (2) The certificate of ownership shall contain upon 7 the face thereof: 8 9 (a) the date issued: 10 (b) the name and complete address of the owner or the names and addresses of joint owners; 11 (c) except as provided in 61-3-103(2), the name and 12 complete address of any holder of a perfected security 13 interest in the registered vehicle; 14 15 (d) a description of the registered vehicle, including the year built and serial number; 16 (e) 'except as provided in 61-3-103(2), the filing date 17 of any lien against such motor vehicle; and 18 (f) such other statement of facts as may be determined 19 by the division. 20 (3) When the names and addresses of more than one 21 owner who are members of the same immediate family are 22 listed on the certificate of ownership, joint ownership with 23 right of survivorship, and not as tenants in common, is 24 25 presumed.

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1 (4) Upon receipt of the application, the division 2 shall recheck the application. If there is any error in the 3 application it may be returned to the county treasurer to 4 effectively secure the correction of such error, who shall 5 return the same to the division.

6 (5) The certificate of ownership shall contain a
7 notice to the division of a transfer of interest of the
8 owner and such other statements as may be determined by the
9 division."

10 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> Section 4. Extension of authority. Any 11 existing authority of the department of justice, division of 12 motor vehicles, to make rules on the subject of the 13 provisions of this act is extended to the provisions of this 14 act.

-End-