

HOUSE REPUBLICAN STAFF ANALYSIS

Bill:	House File 674	House Transportation:	PASSED 21-0 (2/15/2023)
Committee:	Transportation/Ways & Means	House Ways and Means:	PASSED 18-6 (3/16/2023)
Floor Manager:	Rep. Charley Thomson/Brian Best	House Floor:	
Date:	April 12, 2023	Senate Floor:	
Staff:	Brad Trow (1-3471)	Governor:	

Vehicle Registration by County Treasurers and Fees

- House File 674 allows for any county treasurer to do initial motor vehicle registration and titling.
- House File 674 also increases the fees for certain motor vehicle registration and titling and the amount the county treasurer is allowed to deposit into the county general fund.

Section by Section Analysis

Section 1 – Application for registration and certificate of title (Iowa Code 321.20 (1))

Section 1 amends current code to allow an owner or lessor a vehicle with a gross weight under 10,000 pounds can apply to any county treasurer for the initial registration and issuance of a title for the vehicle. The section raises the fee to \$30 (currently the fee is \$20).

Section 2 – Application for registration and certificate of title (Iowa Code 321.20 (2,3,4))

The section cleans up language in the code of subsections 2 and 3 by removing an enactment date that has passed and clarified that rules set by the department shall establish rules pursuant to Chapter 17A.

Section 2 also provides that if a title transaction occurs that the documents shall be electronically submitted to the treasury of the county the owner/lessor lives.

Section 3 – Certificate of title and registration fees – commercial vehicles (Iowa Code 321.20A (1))

The section amends current code to allow the owner of a commercial vehicle to make an application to any county treasurer for a certificate title. Raises the fee to \$30 (currently the fee is \$20).

Section 4 - Titles to specially constructed and reconstructed vehicles, street rods, replica vehicles, and foreign vehicles (Iowa Code 321.23(3,4))

The section allows the owner to apply for initial registration of a foreign vehicle to any county treasurer. Section 4 also raises the fee to \$30 (currently the fee is \$20).

Section 5 – Application for registration and title – cards attached (Iowa Code 321.25(1))

The section adds the word “initial” for registration and certificate of title to conform with language from the rest of this bill.

Section 6 – Multiple registration periods and adjustments (Iowa Code 321.26(2))

Section 6 updates language that the county treasurer may adjust renewal and expiration dates for vehicles the treasurer is responsible for.

Section 7 – Renewal not permitted (Iowa Code 321.29))

The section amends code provisions stating that a vehicle previously registered in Iowa, but no longer registered in Iowa, once returned to the state shall be again considered an initial registration.

Section 8 - Plates or validation sticker furnished — retained by owner — special plates (Iowa Code 321.34(1))

The owner of the car who is transferring ownership can forward their license plates to any county treasurer.

Section 9 – Application for renewal — notification — reasons for refusal (Iowa Code 321.40(1))

Section 9 amends current code to require application for vehicle registration renewal be submitted to the treasurer of the county where the owner resides or where the primary users of the vehicle are located.

Section 10 - Lost or damaged certificates, cards, and plates — replacements (Iowa Code 321.42(2) (a,c,d))

The section provides that the owner of a lost or destroyed certificate of title may apply for a replacement to any county treasurer. Section 10 also raises the fee to \$30 (currently the fee is \$20). A new purchaser is entitled to receive an original title upon presenting the assigned replacement copy to any treasurer.

Section 11 – New title and registration upon transfer of ownership — credit (Iowa Code 321.46(1,2,5))

The section allows the transferee of a certificate of title from any county treasurer. Mobile homes and manufactured homes need to apply in the county the home is located.

The section raises the fee for a new registration application to \$30 (currently \$20) and the application fee for a manufacturer for a certificate of a title raises to \$20 (currently \$10).

The transferor may file an affidavit with any county treasurer certifying the sale or transfer of ownership.

Section 12 – Transfers by operation of law (Iowa Code 321.47(1,3))

If ownership of a vehicle is transferred by operation of law, the applicant entitled to the ownership can apply to any county treasurer and the fee is raised to \$30 (currently the fee is \$20).

Section 13 – Vehicles acquired for resale (Iowa Code 321.48(2))

Foreign registered vehicles acquired by a dealer for the purpose of resale shall be issued a certificate of titled by any county treasurer. Raises the application fee to \$15 (currently \$5).

Section 14 – Time limit — penalty — power of attorney (Iowa Code 321.49(1))

The section changes the requirement to submit an application for transfer of registration from the county treasurer of the transferee's residence to any county treasurer.

Section 15 – Security interest provisions (Iowa Code 321.50(1))

Applications to perfect a security interest for vehicles can be made to any county treasurer. Fees to perfect a security interest are raised to \$20 (currently \$10). Applications for mobile and manufactured homes need to be made to the county it resides in.

Section 16 – Security interest provisions (Iowa Code 321.50(5) (a,c))

When a security interest is discharged, the holder shall deliver the certificate with note of cancellation to any county treasurer.

Section 17 – Out-of-state sales — junked, dismantled, wrecked, or salvage vehicles (Iowa Code 321.52(2) (a))

The purchaser or transferee of a motor vehicle sold for scrap or junk shall surrender the certificate of title to any county treasurer.

Section 18 - Out-of-state sales — junked, dismantled, wrecked, or salvage vehicles (Iowa Code 321.52(4) (a,b))

An insurer shall apply for a salvage certificate with any county treasurer. A vehicle restorer shall apply for a salvage certificate of title from any county treasurer.

Section 19 – Fee for new registration (Iowa Code 321.105A(2))

The section adds a \$10 to the 5% of purchase price fee for a new registration of a vehicle.

Section 20 – Fee for new registration (Iowa Code 321.105A(3)(a))

The section adds a \$10 to the 5% of the leased price fee for a new registration of a vehicle.

Section 21 – Annual registration fee computed — transit fee (Iowa Code 321.109(1)(a))

A nonresident who purchases a new vehicle or used vehicle from a dealer to return back to the nonresident's state may make an application to any county treasurer for a transit plate. The section also raises the fee for a nonresident to apply for a certificate of title to \$30 (currently \$20).

Section 22 – Annual registration fee computed — transit fee (Iowa Code 321.109(3))

The section amends current code to allow an owner of an unregistered motor vehicle to apply for a temporary permit from any county treasurer.

Section 23 – Refunds of annual registration fees (Iowa Code 321.126(1)(g))

The section adds the word "initial" for registration and certificate of title to conform with language from the rest of this bill.

Section 24 - Collection fees retained by county (Iowa Code 321.152(1) (b,d,f))

The section raises the amount a county treasurer may retain for deposit in the county's general fund the following:

- \$12.50 for each fee for certificates of title (currently \$2.50)
- \$16 of each collected for perfection of security interests (currently 60% of all fees collected)
- \$11 from each fee for a new registration (currently \$1)

Section 25 – Effective Date

The section makes the bill effective on January 1, 2024.

AMENDMENTS