
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that electric motor
2 vehicles and hybrid motor vehicles decrease vehicle emissions,
3 helping the State progress toward its clean energy goals.
4 However, the legislature notes concerns that electric motor
5 vehicles and hybrid motor vehicles might not be contributing
6 their fair share to the state highway fund since they don't
7 consume, or consume limited quantities, of gasoline. The state
8 highway fund depends on three primary fee sources: the fuel tax,
9 weight tax, and vehicle registration fees. The fuel tax paid by
10 a driver is closely related to the amount of driving done by the
11 driver of non-electric, non-hybrid motor vehicles. Thus, these
12 drivers pay a fee that is related to the amount of road
13 degradation they contribute to when they drive. Because drivers
14 of electric motor vehicles and hybrid motor vehicles pay little
15 to no gas tax, these drivers do not pay for the road degradation
16 they contribute to.



1 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to increase the
2 registration fees for electric motor vehicles and hybrid motor
3 vehicles such that, in addition to the annual motor vehicle
4 registration fee, drivers of electric motor vehicles and hybrid
5 motor vehicles are assessed an additional annual registration
6 fee that is approximately equivalent to the gas tax they would
7 have paid if they drove a regular motor vehicle. The additional
8 registration fee is based on the average driving miles for all
9 vehicles, the average fuel efficiency of regular motor vehicles,
10 and the amount of the fuel tax.

11 SECTION 2. Section 249-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
12 amended as follows:

13 1. By adding two new definitions to be appropriately
14 inserted and to read:

15 "Electric motor vehicle" means a motor vehicle powered
16 solely by an electric motor that draws current from rechargeable
17 storage batteries, fuel cells, photovoltaic arrays, or other
18 sources of electric current.

19 "Hybrid motor vehicle" means a motor vehicle powered by an
20 internal combustion engine and other propulsion that may be



1 dependent or independent in providing propulsion to the vehicle
2 in any forward or reverse gear."

3 2. By amending the definition of "motor vehicle" to read:

4 "Motor vehicle" means every vehicle which is self-
5 propelled [~~and every vehicle which is propelled by electric~~
6 ~~power but~~], including electric motor vehicles and hybrid motor
7 vehicles, which is not operated upon rails, but excludes
8 mopeds."

9 SECTION 3. Section 249-31, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
10 amended to read as follows:

11 "**§249-31 State registration fee.** (a) All vehicles and
12 motor vehicles in the State as defined in section 249-1,
13 including antique motor vehicles, except as otherwise provided
14 in sections 249-4, 249-6, and 249-31.5, shall be subject to a
15 \$45 annual vehicle registration fee. Electric motor vehicles in
16 the State shall be subject to an additional \$70 annual vehicle
17 registration fee and hybrid motor vehicles in the State shall be
18 subject to an additional \$35 annual vehicle registration fee.
19 The [fee] fees shall be paid each year together with all other
20 taxes and fees levied by this chapter on a staggered basis as
21 established by each county as authorized by section 286-51, and



1 the state registration for that county shall likewise be
2 staggered so that the state registration [~~fee is~~] fees are due
3 and payable at the same time and shall be collected together
4 with the county fee. The state registration [~~fee~~] fees shall be
5 deemed delinquent if not paid with the county registration fee.
6 The respective counties shall collect [~~this fee~~] these fees
7 together with the vehicle registration tax collected for the
8 county and shall transfer the moneys collected under this
9 section to the State.

10 (b) From each annual motor vehicle registration fee, the
11 director shall deposit \$40 into the state highway fund and \$5
12 into the emergency medical services special fund. From the
13 additional annual motor vehicle registration fees for electric
14 motor vehicles and hybrid motor vehicles, the director shall
15 deposit the entire amount of the fee into the state highway
16 fund."

17 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the state highway
18 fund the sum of \$ or so much thereof as may be
19 necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 for the operations and
20 maintenance of the state highways program.



1 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
2 transportation for the purposes of this Act.

3 SECTION 5. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
4 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

5 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect upon its approval;
6 provided that section 4 shall take effect on July 1, 2018.

7



Report Title:

Electric Motor Vehicles; Hybrid Motor Vehicles; Annual
Registration Fees; State Highway Fund; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes an additional motor vehicle registration fee for
electric motor vehicles and hybrid motor vehicles, and deposits
the money into the state highway fund. Appropriates funds for
the operations and maintenance of the state highway program.
(SD2)

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