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SYNOPSIS:

Under existing law, centralized motor vehicle registration is prohibited.

This bill would define the term "centralized motor vehicle registration" and would clarify that certain data collection is excluded from the prohibition against centralized registration.

This bill would also make nonsubstantive, technical revisions to update the existing code language to current style.

A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

Relating to motor vehicles; to amend Section 32-6-65, Code of Alabama 1975; to define "centralized motor vehicle registration"; to allow for certain data collection; and to make nonsubstantive, technical revisions to update the existing code language to current style.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. Section 32-6-65, Code of Alabama 1975, is amended to read as follows:

"§32-6-65



29 (a) (1) There shall be one uniform motor vehicle
30 registration renewal form to be used statewide. ~~Such~~The form
31 shall be designed ~~so as~~ to provide for both the transfer of
32 ownership and the registration of the motor vehicle. All
33 receipts shall be sent to the county agencies charged with
34 handling motor vehicle registration. Receipts may be provided
35 to the registrant in a tangible format or in an electronic
36 format, as prescribed by the department. The state and the
37 county shall capture the color of the motor vehicle in their
38 permanent records. This subsection shall not give the
39 Department of Revenue authority to centralize motor vehicle
40 registration. Centralized motor vehicle registration is
41 specifically prohibited and it is the legislative intent that
42 ~~automotive~~motor vehicle registration shall remain at the
43 county level.

44 (2) For the purposes of this section, the term
45 "centralized motor vehicle registration" means the use of a
46 software application product or system controlled by a state
47 agency or its designee that processes the issuance of motor
48 vehicle registration certificates or motor vehicle
49 registration plates. The term shall not include a statewide
50 system to process registration data collected from the county
51 or local level.

52 (3) The selection of a motor vehicle registration
53 software application product or system shall be at the sole
54 discretion of the local official charged with the authority to
55 register motor vehicles, subject to any necessary local
56 government approval.



57 (4) This subsection shall not apply to nor override the
58 authority granted under Sections 32-6-56 or 32-6-710, Article
59 3 of Chapter 17 of Title 40, or Division 4 of Article 5 of
60 Chapter 12 of Title 40.

61 (b) (1) A penalty of fifteen dollars (\$15) shall be
62 assessed by the official charged with issuing motor vehicle
63 licenses for the late registration of a motor vehicle. "Late
64 registration of a motor vehicle" shall include all of the
65 following:

66 ~~(1) the failure~~ a. Failure to register the motor
67 vehicle within 20 calendar days of the date of purchase or
68 acquisition; ~~(2) the failure~~

69 b. Failure to renew the motor vehicle registration in
70 the designated renewal month; ~~and (3) the failure~~

71 c. Failure to register the motor vehicle in accordance
72 with the provisions of Section 40-12-262(a).

73 (2) It shall be the duty of all sheriffs, police
74 officers, state troopers, license inspectors, deputy license
75 inspectors, field agents of the Department of Revenue, and
76 other law enforcement officers to arrest any person operating
77 a motor vehicle without the current license plate displaying
78 the proper validation decal. Persons apprehended for operating
79 a motor vehicle without the current license plate, upon
80 conviction by a court of competent jurisdiction, shall be
81 fined not less than twenty-five dollars (\$25).

82 ~~(2)~~ (3) Notwithstanding subdivision (1), any person on
83 military deployment during any part of his or her designated
84 registration renewal month, except a person with a discharge



85 characterization of dishonorable or other than honorable, who
86 renews his or her motor vehicle registration within 30
87 calendar days from the date the deployment ends shall not be
88 assessed a late registration penalty or associated interest
89 charges. Evidence of military deployment shall be documented
90 using military deployment orders, a government issued
91 Statement of Service letter, Form DD214 Certificate of Release
92 or Discharge from Active Duty, or a letter from the
93 registrant's unit commander certifying the date that his or
94 her deployment ended.

95 (c) All penalties assessed by this section shall be
96 distributed in the same manner as motor vehicle licenses and
97 registration fees are distributed as provided in Sections
98 40-12-269 and 40-12-270. Portions of Section 40-12-10 as they
99 may conflict with this section, are hereby repealed and
100 superseded."

101 Section 2. This act shall become effective immediately
102 following its passage and approval by the Governor, or its
103 otherwise becoming law.