

**SENATE BILL NO. 6**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA  
TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

**BY SENATOR BUNDE**

**Introduced: 1/11/05**

**Referred: Transportation, State Affairs**

**A BILL**

**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

1 **"An Act relating to motor vehicle registration plates."**

2 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

3 \* **Section 1.** AS 28.10.051(a) is amended to read:

4 (a) The department may suspend or revoke the registration of a vehicle, the  
5 certificate of registration or registration plates for a vehicle, or a special permit when

6 (1) the department determines that the registration or certificate, plate,  
7 or permit was fraudulently procured or erroneously issued **or approved**;

8 (2) the department determines that a registered vehicle is mechanically  
9 unsafe to be driven or moved on a highway, vehicular way or area, or other public  
10 property in this state and the vehicle has been seized or impounded under  
11 AS 28.05.091;

12 (3) a registered vehicle has been scrapped, dismantled, or destroyed  
13 beyond repair;

14 (4) the department determines that a required fee or tax has not been  
15 paid and the fee or tax is not paid upon reasonable notice and demand;

1 (5) a registration plate, permit, or certificate is knowingly displayed  
2 upon a vehicle other than the vehicle for which issued or approved;

3 (6) the department determines that the owner of a vehicle has  
4 committed an offense under this chapter involving the registration or the certificate,  
5 plate, or permit to be suspended or revoked;

6 (7) the vehicle has been reported to the department as stolen or  
7 unlawfully converted;

8 (8) the department is otherwise required to do so under the laws of this  
9 state;

10 (9) the department determines that the vehicle owner has violated the  
11 requirements of AS 28.10.146 or 28.10.147;

12 (10) the department determines that a repair to a commercial motor  
13 vehicle, ordered by the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities or the  
14 Department of Public Safety under regulations adopted under AS 19, was not  
15 completed after the owner or operator represented to the Department of Transportation  
16 and Public Facilities, the Department of Public Safety, or the Department of  
17 Administration that the repair had been completed; or

18 (11) the owner or operator of a commercial motor vehicle has placed a  
19 commercial motor vehicle back in service after it has been placed out of service by the  
20 Department of Transportation and Public Facilities or the Department of Public Safety  
21 without having it reinspected as required under regulations adopted under AS 19.

22 \* **Sec. 2.** AS 28.10.091 is amended to read:

23 **Sec. 28.10.091. Lost or mutilated certificates of registration or**  
24 **registration plates.** If a certificate of registration or a registration plate is lost, stolen,  
25 mutilated, or becomes illegible, the owner or legal representative or successor in  
26 interest of the owner of the vehicle for which the certificate or plate was issued or  
27 approved as shown by the records of the department shall, immediately upon  
28 discovering the fact, apply for a duplicate or substitute certificate of registration or  
29 registration plate and shall return to the department all parts of the original certificate  
30 of registration or registration plates that the applicant possesses.

31 \* **Sec. 3.** AS 28.10.161(a) is amended to read:

1 (a) Except for a vehicle registered under AS 28.10.152, the department, upon  
 2 registering a vehicle, shall issue the owner one fully reflectorized registration plate for  
 3 a trailer or a motorcycle and two fully reflectorized registration plates for every other  
 4 vehicle. **When vehicle ownership is transferred or assigned, the registration plate**  
 5 **or plates shall remain with the owner or organization to whom they are issued.**  
 6 **The registration plate or plates may not be used on or transferred to a vehicle**  
 7 **other than the vehicle for which the plate or plates are issued without approval of**  
 8 **the department and payment of any required fees and taxes imposed under this**  
 9 **chapter. If the registration plate or plates issued under this section are**  
 10 **transferred to a vehicle for which the registration fee is more than the fee for the**  
 11 **vehicle from which the plates are transferred, the owner shall pay the difference**  
 12 **between the two fees. The registration plate or plates issued under this**  
 13 **subsection that a person is no longer entitled to use or the transfer of which the**  
 14 **department does not approve shall be returned immediately to the department**  
 15 **by the person or organization to whom the plate or plates were originally issued**  
 16 [EXCEPT AS SPECIFICALLY PROVIDED IN AS 28.10.181, THE PLATE OR  
 17 PLATES MUST REMAIN WITH THE VEHICLE AS LONG AS THE VEHICLE IS  
 18 SUBJECT TO REGISTRATION UNDER THIS CHAPTER].

19 \* **Sec. 4.** AS 28.10.161(b) is amended to read:

20 (b) Every passenger vehicle registration plate, except as specifically provided  
 21 in AS 28.10.181, shall have displayed upon it

22 (1) the Alaska flag;

23 (2) the traditional colors of yellow-gold and blue;

24 (3) the slogan "The Last Frontier";

25 (4) the registration number assigned to the vehicle for which it is  
 26 issued **or approved**;

27 (5) the name of this state, which may be abbreviated; and

28 (6) the registration year number or expiration date for which time it is  
 29 validated; the registration year number or expiration date may be part of the license  
 30 plate or contained on a suitable sticker or tab device issued by the department;  
 31 however, only one sticker or tab device may be issued for each pair of plates, and the

1 sticker or tab device must be affixed to the rear plate.

2 \* **Sec. 5.** AS 28.10.171 is amended to read:

3 **Sec. 28.10.171. Display of registration plates.** (a) When two registration  
4 plates are issued or approved for a vehicle, they shall be attached to the vehicle for  
5 which issued or approved, one in front and the other in the rear. When one  
6 registration plate is issued or approved, it shall be attached to the rear of the vehicle  
7 for which issued or approved.

8 (b) Every registration plate issued or approved under this chapter shall be  
9 securely fastened to the vehicle to which it is assigned, with the upper edge of the  
10 plate horizontal, at a height of not less than 12 inches from the ground measuring from  
11 the bottom of the plate, and maintained in a location and condition so as to be clearly  
12 legible. However, when considered necessary to insure legibility, the commissioner  
13 may provide by regulation for another method of installation.

14 \* **Sec. 6.** AS 28.10.181(a) is amended to read:

15 (a) The department shall register unique and special vehicles and vehicles  
16 used for special purposes and issue registration plates as provided in this section.  
17 [NOTWITHSTANDING OTHER PROVISIONS OF THIS CHAPTER,  
18 REGISTRATION PLATES ISSUED UNDER THIS SECTION REMAIN WITH  
19 THE PERSON OR ORGANIZATION TO WHOM THEY ARE ISSUED WHEN  
20 VEHICLE OWNERSHIP IS TRANSFERRED OR TITLE OR INTEREST IN THE  
21 VEHICLE IS ASSIGNED, EXCEPT FOR PLATES ISSUED UNDER (b), (h) AND  
22 (i) OF THIS SECTION. REGISTRATION PLATES ISSUED UNDER THIS  
23 SECTION MAY NOT BE USED ON, OR TRANSFERRED TO, A VEHICLE  
24 OTHER THAN THE VEHICLE FOR WHICH THE PLATES ARE ISSUED  
25 WITHOUT THE APPROVAL OF THE DEPARTMENT AND PAYMENT OF ANY  
26 REQUIRED FEES AND TAXES PRESCRIBED IN AS 28.10.421(d), 28.10.431  
27 AND 28.10.441; HOWEVER, IF THE PLATES ISSUED UNDER (c), (f) AND (j)  
28 OF THIS SECTION ARE TRANSFERRED TO A VEHICLE FOR WHICH THE  
29 REGISTRATION FEE IS MORE THAN THE FEE FOR THE VEHICLE FROM  
30 WHICH THE PLATES ARE TRANSFERRED, THE OWNER SHALL PAY THE  
31 DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE TWO FEES. REGISTRATION PLATES ISSUED

1 UNDER THIS SECTION TO WHICH A PERSON IS NO LONGER ENTITLED OR  
 2 THE TRANSFER OF THE PLATES TO ANOTHER VEHICLE WHICH THE  
 3 DEPARTMENT DOES NOT APPROVE SHALL BE RETURNED IMMEDIATELY  
 4 TO THE DEPARTMENT BY THE PERSON OR ORGANIZATION TO WHOM  
 5 THE PLATES WERE ORIGINALLY ISSUED].

6 \* **Sec. 7.** AS 28.10.181(b) is amended to read:

7 (b) Historic vehicles. The owner of a historic vehicle may make application  
 8 for special registration under this subsection. The department, when satisfied that the  
 9 vehicle meets the requirements for historic vehicle registration under regulations  
 10 adopted by the commissioner, shall register the vehicle and (1) issue two permanent  
 11 registration plates of distinctive design and color bearing no date; vehicles qualifying  
 12 for registration under this paragraph shall be issued registration plates numbered in a  
 13 separate numerical series beginning with "Historic Vehicle No. 1"; or (2) allow the  
 14 vehicle to use registration plates of this state supplied by the vehicle owner that  
 15 correspond to the year the vehicle was manufactured if the vehicle was manufactured  
 16 30 or more years before the year of application. **Notwithstanding AS 28.10.161(a),**  
 17 **historic registration** [REGISTRATION] plates issued under this subsection remain  
 18 with the vehicle as long as the vehicle is registered under this subsection.

19 \* **Sec. 8.** AS 28.10.181(r) is amended to read:

20 (r) Special request custom collector plates. Upon application by the owner of a  
 21 custom collector vehicle, the department may design and issue **and approve**  
 22 registration plates appropriate for custom collector vehicles. The department may  
 23 disapprove the issuance of registration plates under this subsection when the requested  
 24 plates are a duplication of an existing registration.

25 \* **Sec. 9.** AS 28.10.271(a) is amended to read:

26 (a) When the owner of a registered vehicle transfers or assigns the owner's  
 27 title or interest in the vehicle, the registration of the vehicle expires; however, the  
 28 registration plates remain **with the owner or organization** [ON THE VEHICLE]  
 29 except as otherwise provided in AS 28.10.181.

30 \* **Sec. 10.** AS 28.10.331 is amended to read:

31 **Sec. 28.10.331. Department to issue new certificates of title and**

1       **registration.** The department, upon receipt of the certificate of title properly  
2       endorsed, the certificate of registration, [THE REGISTRATION PLATES, IF ANY,]  
3       the application for new title and registration, and all required fees and taxes, shall  
4       issue a certificate of title and a certificate of registration to the transferee or the  
5       lienholder lawfully entitled to the certificates.

6       \* **Sec. 11.** AS 28.10.351 is amended to read:

7               **Sec. 28.10.351. Dismantling or wrecking vehicle.** A person who dismantles,  
8       scraps, or destroys a registered vehicle shall immediately forward to the department  
9       the certificates of title and registration [AND THE REGISTRATION PLATES] for  
10      the vehicle.

11      \* **Sec. 12.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to  
12      read:

13              **APPLICABILITY.** This Act applies to registration of a motor vehicle that occurs on  
14      or after the effective date of this Act.