



# LAWS OF ALASKA

1996

**Source**

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**Chapter No.**

44

**AN ACT**

Relating to biennial registration of motor vehicles; imposing biennial registration fees on motor vehicles and setting the statutory amounts of a scheduled biennial municipal tax on motor vehicles; relating to motor vehicle emissions control programs; amending the effective date in sec. 7, ch. 56, SLA 1995; and providing for an effective date.

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

THE ACT FOLLOWS ON PAGE 1

**Approved by the Governor:** May 24, 1996

**Actual Effective Date:** Sections 18 and 19 take effect May 25, 1996; remainder of Act takes effect January 1, 1997

AN ACT

1 Relating to biennial registration of motor vehicles; imposing biennial registration fees on  
2 motor vehicles and setting the statutory amounts of a scheduled biennial municipal tax on  
3 motor vehicles; relating to motor vehicle emissions control programs; amending the effective  
4 date in sec. 7, ch. 56, SLA 1995; and providing for an effective date.

5

6 \* Section 1. AS 28.10.108(b) is amended to read:

7 (b) Subject to the provisions of (f) of this section, a vehicle subject to  
8 registration

9 (1) under AS 28.10.011 and 28.10.421(b)(3) and (4) and (c)(1) - (4)  
10 shall have its initial registration, and may have its biennial [ANNUAL] registration,  
11 renewed during the month of December;

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1 (2) under AS 28.10.181, 28.10.411, and 28.10.421(d)(3) and (8) [(9)]  
2 shall have its initial registration, and may have its biennial [ANNUAL] registration,  
3 renewed during the month of January.

4 \* **Sec. 2.** AS 28.10.108(c) is amended to read:

5 (c) A vehicle subject to registration and not described in (b) of this section  
6 shall have its initial registration, and may have its biennial [ANNUAL] registration,  
7 renewed in the month of initial registration in the state, subject to the provisions of (f)  
8 of this section.

9 \* **Sec. 3.** AS 28.10.108(d) is amended to read:

10 (d) A registered vehicle retains the same biennial [ANNUAL] expiration date  
11 regardless of the ownership of the vehicle.

12 \* **Sec. 4.** AS 28.10.108(f) is amended to read:

13 (f) Upon request of the owner and payment of the proportionate prorated  
14 applicable fees, a vehicle registered under this section shall have its registration period  
15 extended in monthly increments to allow biennial [ANNUAL] registration to occur in  
16 the month of the owner's choice. Notwithstanding the other provisions of this  
17 chapter, upon request of the owner and payment of the annual fee set out in  
18 AS 28.10.421(h), the department shall register a rental motor vehicle for a one-  
19 year period.

20 \* **Sec. 5.** AS 28.10.111(b) is amended to read:

21 (b) The department may receive an application for the renewal of vehicle  
22 registration and issue a new certificate of registration at any time before the expiration  
23 of the biennial [ANNUAL] registration as prescribed in regulations adopted by the  
24 commissioner. Nothing in this section prevents the commissioner from providing for  
25 a longer [MULTI-YEAR] registration period; however, a person may not display the  
26 new registration plates on a vehicle before a date which may be set by the  
27 commissioner.

28 \* **Sec. 6.** AS 28.10.411(a) is amended to read:

29 (a) For every year during any part of which a vehicle is subject to registration  
30 under this chapter, a registration fee shall be paid to the department at the time of  
31 original registration and at each biennial [ANNUAL] renewal of registration after that

1 time.

2 \* Sec. 7. AS 28.10.411(f) is amended to read:

3 (f) A resident 65 years of age or older on January 1 of the year the vehicle is  
4 registered is entitled to an exemption once each **biennial registration period**  
5 [CALENDAR YEAR] from the registration fee required under this section for one  
6 motor vehicle subject to registration under AS 28.10.421(b)(1), (2), (5), or (6). An  
7 exemption may not be granted except upon written application for the exemption on  
8 a form prescribed by the department.

9 \* Sec. 8. AS 28.10.421(b) is amended to read:

10 (b) The **biennial** [ANNUAL] registration fees under this subsection are  
11 imposed within the following classifications for:

12 (1) a passenger vehicle or motor home not used or maintained for the  
13 transportation of persons or property for hire or for other commercial use

14 ..... **\$68** [\$35];

15 (2) a pick-up truck or a van not exceeding 6,000 pounds unladen  
16 weight and not used or maintained for the transportation of persons or property for hire  
17 or for other commercial use ..... **\$78** [\$40];

18 (3) a taxicab ..... **\$138** [\$70];

19 (4) a motor bus with a seating capacity for 20 or more persons and  
20 used exclusively for commercial purposes in the transporting of visitors or tourists  
21 ..... **\$168** [\$85];

22 (5) a motorcycle or a motor-driven cycle ..... **\$38** [\$20];

23 (6) a trailer not used or maintained for the transportation of persons or  
24 property for hire or for other commercial use, including, but not limited to, a boat  
25 trailer, baggage trailer, box trailer, utility trailer, house trailer, travel trailer, or a trailer  
26 rented or offered for rent ..... **\$10** [\$5].

27 \* Sec. 9. AS 28.10.421(c) is amended to read:

28 (c) The **biennial** [ANNUAL] registration fees under this subsection are  
29 imposed and are based upon the actual unladen weight as established by the  
30 manufacturer's advertised weight or upon the actual weight which the owner shall  
31 furnish, subject to the approval of the commissioner or the commissioner's

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1 representative, for a vehicle, including a motor vehicle pulling a trailer or semi-trailer,  
2 that is registered in the name of a company or business, or is used or maintained for  
3 the transportation of passengers for hire, excepting taxicabs and buses under (b) of this  
4 section, or for the transportation of property for hire or for other commercial purposes,  
5 including a trailer, semi-trailer, truck, wrecker, tow car, hearse, ambulance, and tractor,  
6 as follows

- 7 (1) up to and including 5,000 pounds . . . . . **\$100** [\$51];
- 8 (2) more than 5,000 pounds to and including 12,000 pounds
- 9 . . . . . **\$170** [\$86];
- 10 (3) more than 12,000 pounds to and including 18,000 pounds
- 11 . . . . . **\$310** [\$156];
- 12 (4) more than 18,000 pounds . . . . . **\$440** [\$221].

13 \* Sec. 10. AS 28.10.421(d) is amended to read:

14 (d) The special registration fees under this subsection are imposed **biennially**  
15 [ANNUALLY], unless otherwise specified, for

- 16 (1) an historic vehicle, [( one time only upon initial registration under
- 17 AS 28.10.181 [)] . . . . . \$10;
- 18 (2) special request plates for
  - 19 (A) Alaska National Guard personnel . . . . . \$30;
  - 20 (B) veterans or retired veterans . . . . . \$30;
  - 21 (C) recipients of the Purple Heart . . . . . \$30;
  - 22 (D) owners of custom collection vehicles . . . . . \$50;
  - 23 (E) other special request plates . . . . . \$30;

24 plus the fee required for that vehicle under (b) of this section; the fee required by this  
25 paragraph shall be collected only on the first issuance and on the replacement of  
26 special request plates;

- 27 (3) a vehicle owned by a disabled veteran or other handicapped person,  
28 and registered under AS 28.10.181 or a resident 65 years of age or older who files a  
29 written application for an exemption on a form prescribed by the department none;
- 30 (4) a vehicle owned by the state . . . . . none;
- 31 (5) a vehicle owned by an elected state official . . . . . the fee

- 1 required for that vehicle under (b) of this section;
- 2           (6) [REPEALED]
- 3           (7)] a vehicle owned by a rancher, farmer, or dairyman and registered
- 4 under AS 28.10.181 . . . . . **\$68** [\$35];
- 5           (7) [(8)] a snowmobile or off-highway vehicle . . . . . **\$10** [\$5];
- 6           (8) [(9)] an amateur mobile radio station vehicle,
- 7                    (A) with a transceiver capable of less than 5-band operation...
- 8           the fee required for that vehicle under (b) or (c) of this section;
- 9                    (B) in recognition of service to the public a mobile amateur
- 10 radio station owned by an amateur with general class or higher license,
- 11 provided the station must be satisfactorily proved capable of operating on at
- 12 least five bands from 160 through 10 meters, must have an antenna, and must
- 13 have a power supply and wiring as a permanent part of the vehicle; the
- 14 transmitting unit may be removed from the car for service or dry storage . . .
- 15 none for a mobile amateur radio station vehicle included in (b)(1) or (2) of this
- 16 section;
- 17           (9) [(10)] dealer registration plates
- 18                    (A) the initial set of plates . . . . . **\$88** [\$45];
- 19                    (B) each subsequent set of plates . . . . . **\$50** [\$25];
- 20           (10) [(11)] a vehicle owned by a municipality or charitable
- 21 organization meeting the requirements of AS 28.10.181(e) . . . . . **\$10** [\$5];
- 22           (11) [(12)] REPEALED
- 23           (13)] a vehicle owned by a Pearl Harbor survivor or a former prisoner
- 24 of war . . . . . none;
- 25           (12) [(14)] REPEALED
- 26           (15)] special request university plates . . . . . \$50
- 27 plus the fee required for that vehicle under (b)(1) or (2) of this section; the fee
- 28 required by this paragraph shall be collected only on the first issuance and on the
- 29 replacement of special request plates; the commissioner of administration shall
- 30 separately account by university campus designation for the fees received under this
- 31 paragraph that the department deposits in the general fund; the annual estimated

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1 balance in the accounts that is in excess of the cost of issuing special request  
2 university plates may be appropriated by the legislature for the support of programs  
3 at each campus.

4 \* Sec. 11. AS 28.10.421(f) is amended to read:

5 (f) In addition to the fees imposed under (b) and (d) of this section, the  
6 following special **biennial** [ANNUAL] registration fee is imposed upon renewal of  
7 registration for a passenger vehicle, motor home, pick-up truck, or a van with special  
8 request Winter Olympics commemorative plates. . . **\$60** [\$30]; the annual estimated  
9 balance in the account maintained by the commissioner of administration under  
10 AS 37.05.142 may be appropriated by the legislature to the Alaska amateur sports fund  
11 established under AS 05.35.150.

12 \* Sec. 12. AS 28.10.421 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

13 (h) The annual registration fees for rental motor vehicles under this subsection  
14 are imposed and are based upon the actual unladen weight as established by the  
15 manufacturer's advertised weight or upon the actual weight which the owner shall  
16 furnish, subject to the approval of the commissioner or the commissioner's  
17 representative, as follows:

- 18 (1) up to and including 5,000 pounds . . . . . \$51;
- 19 (2) more than 5,000 pounds to and including 12,000 pounds
- 20 . . . . . \$86;
- 21 (3) more than 12,000 pounds to and including 18,000 pounds
- 22 . . . . . \$156;
- 23 (4) more than 18,000 pounds . . . . . \$221.

24 \* Sec. 13. AS 28.10.423 is amended to read:

25 Sec. 28.10.423. EMISSION CONTROL INSPECTION PROGRAM FEES. In  
26 addition to the **biennial** [ANNUAL] registration fee specified in AS 28.10.421, a \$2  
27 fee is imposed upon every vehicle required to be inspected under an emission control  
28 program established under AS 46.14.400 or 46.14.510. This fee shall be collected at  
29 the same time and in the same manner as the registration fee.

30 \* Sec. 14. AS 28.10.431(b) is amended to read:

31 (b) The **biennial** tax is levied upon motor vehicles subject to the license fee

under AS 28.10.411 and 28.10.421 and is based upon the age of vehicles as determined by model year **in the first year of the biennial period**, according to the following schedule: Tax According to Age of Vehicle Since Model Year

	Tax According to Age of Vehicle Since Model Year:							
	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th
	or over							
Motor Vehicle								
(1) motorcycle	<u>\$17</u>	<u>\$15</u>	<u>\$13</u>	<u>\$10</u>	<u>\$ 7</u>	<u>\$ 5</u>	<u>\$ 4</u>	<u>\$ 4</u>
	[\$ 9]	[\$ 8]	[\$ 7]	[\$ 6]	[\$ 4]	[\$ 3]	[\$ 2]	[\$ 2]
(2) vehicles specified	<u>121</u>	<u>99</u>	<u>77</u>	<u>55</u>	<u>39</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>16</u>
in AS 28.10.421(b)(1)	[66]	[55]	[44]	[33]	[22]	[17]	[11]	[ 8]
(3) vehicles specified	<u>121</u>	<u>99</u>	<u>77</u>	<u>55</u>	<u>39</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>16</u>
in AS 28.10.421(b)(3)	[66]	[55]	[44]	[33]	[22]	[17]	[11]	[ 8]
(4) vehicles specified in AS 28.10.421(c)(1)-(4)								
5,000 pounds or less	<u>121</u>	<u>99</u>	<u>77</u>	<u>55</u>	<u>39</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>16</u>
	[66]	[55]	[44]	[33]	[22]	[17]	[11]	[ 8]
5,001-12,000 pounds	<u>198</u>	<u>154</u>	<u>121</u>	<u>99</u>	<u>77</u>	<u>55</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>22</u>
	[110]	[88]	[66]	[55]	[44]	[33]	[22]	[11]
12,001-18,000 pounds	<u>297</u>	<u>242</u>	<u>198</u>	<u>154</u>	<u>110</u>	<u>77</u>	<u>55</u>	<u>44</u>
	[165]	[132]	[110]	[88]	[66]	[44]	[33]	[22]
18,001 pounds or over	<u>396</u>	<u>319</u>	<u>253</u>	<u>198</u>	<u>154</u>	<u>110</u>	<u>66</u>	<u>44</u>
	[220]	[176]	[143]	[110]	[88]	[66]	[44]	[22]
(5) vehicles specified	<u>198</u>	<u>154</u>	<u>121</u>	<u>99</u>	<u>77</u>	<u>55</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>22</u>
in AS 28.10.421(b)(4)	[110]	[88]	[66]	[55]	[44]	[33]	[22]	[11]
(6) vehicles specified	<u>17</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>
in AS 28.10.421(b)(6)	[ 9]	[ 8]	[ 7]	[ 6]	[ 4]	[ 3]	[ 2]	[ 2]
(7) vehicles specified	<u>121</u>	<u>99</u>	<u>77</u>	<u>55</u>	<u>39</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>16</u>
in <u>AS 28.10.421(d)(8)</u>	[66]	[55]	[44]	[33]	[22]	[17]	[11]	[ 8]

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1 [AS 28.10.421(d)(9)]  
2 (8) vehicles specified 121 99 77 55 39 28 19 16  
3 in AS 28.10.421(b)(2) [66] [55] [44] [33] [22] [17] [11] [ 8]  
4 (9) vehicles eligible 88  
5 for dealer plates under [44]  
6 AS 28.10.421(d)(9)  
7 [AS 28.10.421(d)(10)].

8 \* **Sec. 15.** AS 28.10.431(h) is amended to read:

9 (h) A vehicle owned by a former prisoner of war exempted from registration  
10 fees under AS 28.10.421(d)(11) [AS 28.10.421(d)(13)] is subject to a motor vehicle  
11 registration tax under this section.

12 \* **Sec. 16.** AS 28.35.155(a) is amended to read:

13 (a) It is unlawful to operate a motor vehicle with studded tires or tires with  
14 chains attached on a paved highway or road from May 1 through September 15,  
15 inclusive, north of 60 North Latitude and from April 15 through September 30,  
16 inclusive, south of 60 North Latitude. The commissioner shall by emergency order  
17 provide for additional lawful operating periods based on unusual seasonal or weather  
18 conditions. An emergency order adopted under this section is not subject to AS 44.62  
19 (Administrative Procedure Act). Upon application a special individual traction permit  
20 may be issued allowing the operation of a motor vehicle with studded tires or chains  
21 at any time at the discretion of the vehicle owner. The fee for the special individual  
22 permit is one-third of the **biennial** [ANNUAL] registration fee applicable to that class  
23 of vehicle under AS 28.10.421. The department may provide an appropriate sticker  
24 or other device identifying the vehicle to which the permit applies.

25 \* **Sec. 17.** AS 46.14.510 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

26 (g) In addition to the emission control inspection program fee imposed under  
27 AS 28.10.423, the department or a municipality may impose a fee upon a vehicle  
28 required to be inspected under a motor vehicle emission control program established  
29 under this chapter, but the fee may not exceed the actual costs of the department or  
30 the municipality in administering

31 (1) the motor vehicle emission control inspection program; and

1 (2) the related ambient air monitoring program.

2 \* **Sec. 18.** Section 2, ch. 56, SLA 1995, is amended to read:

3 Sec. 2. AS 28.10.421(a) is amended to read:

4 (a) Unless otherwise provided by law,

5 (1) the fees prescribed in this section shall be paid to the department  
6 at the times provided under AS 28.10.108 and 28.10.111; and

7 (2) an additional fee of \$10 shall be added to the registration fee set  
8 out in this section for registration not conducted by mail or not conducted at an  
9 emissions inspection station or contract office offering vehicle registration services;  
10 the department may waive this additional fee for a good cause based on criteria  
11 established in regulations adopted by the department.

12 \* **Sec. 19.** Section 7, ch. 56, SLA 1995, is amended to read:

13 Sec. 7. Except as provided in sec. 6 of this Act, this Act takes effect  
14 January 1, 1997 [JULY 1, 1996].

15 \* **Sec. 20.** TRANSITION. (a) Notwithstanding the provisions of this Act, the biennial  
16 registration fees imposed under this Act shall be imposed by the Department of Public Safety  
17 upon registration or renewal of an existing registration and in a manner that allows  
18 approximately one-half of vehicle registrations to be issued or renewed under a biennial  
19 system by January 1, 1998, and the remaining biennial vehicle registrations or renewals to be  
20 imposed by January 1, 1999.

21 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of ch. 56, SLA 1995, the biennial motor vehicle  
22 emissions inspection program imposed under ch. 56, SLA 1995, shall be imposed by a  
23 municipality or the Department of Environmental Conservation in a manner that allows  
24 approximately one-half of vehicle inspections to occur by January 1, 1998, and the remaining  
25 emissions inspections to occur by January 1, 1999.

26 \* **Sec. 21.** Sections 18 and 19 of this Act take effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).

27 \* **Sec. 22.** Except as provided under sec. 21 of this Act, this Act takes effect January 1,  
28 1997.