

Budget Unit Brief

FY 2017



DOT – Motor Vehicle Division

Purpose and History

The Motor Vehicle Division of the Department of Transportation (DOT) is responsible for administering and enforcing federal and state motor vehicle laws and regulations, including testing, licensing, and sanctioning of all drivers. The Division maintains and oversees driver and vehicle-related functions including all driver history files, central issuance of driver licenses, crash reports, vehicle titles, vehicle registrations, driver offenses, permits, county-based registrations, weigh stations, issuance of special plates, driver safety and education, and commercial vehicle inspections. The Division also enforces federal motor carrier safety standards and hazardous materials regulation, carries out investigations, and issues commercial vehicle citations. Links to individual offices and bureaus, and a noncomprehensive list of roles, are below.

- Office of Driver Services
 - Issuance of drivers licenses
 - Commercial Drivers Licenses (CDL)
 - Motorcycle licensing
 - Certified identification cars
 - Driver education
- Office of Vehicle and Motor Carrier Services
 - International Fuel Tax Agreement administration
 - International Registration Plan administration
 - Detailed maps including vehicle clearance, pavement and bridge restrictions
 - Oversize and Overweight Trip Permits
 - Vehicle registration, license plate issuance, and assistance selling vehicles
 - Dealer licensing
- Office of Motor Vehicle Enforcement
 - Weight enforcement and weigh stations
 - Commercial vehicle enforcement
 - Hazardous material regulation
- Bureau of Investigation and Identity Protection
 - Identity theft, odometer, and registration fraud investigations
 - Salvage theft examinations
 - Complaint resolution

The first motor vehicle registration of \$1.00 was required in 1904 when the 13th General Assembly enacted legislation requiring the registration of vehicles and regulating use on state highways. In 1904, there were 931 motor vehicles registered. In 2012, there were 4.2 million vehicles registered, including 1.4 million automobiles, 182,000 motorcycles, 24,000 tractor/trucks, 917,000 motor trucks, and 872,000 multi-purpose vehicles.

Funding History

Motor Vehicle Division operations are funded primarily by the Road Use Tax Fund (RUTF) (96.0%) with a small portion from the Primary Road Fund (4.0%). The appropriation for the Division is included in the Transportation Appropriations Bill under the purview of the Transportation, Infrastructure, and Capitals Appropriations Subcommittee. The State's General Fund is not used for the Division's operations.

Related Statutes

Iowa Code chapter [321](#)
[761](#) Iowa Administrative Code

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More Information

Iowa Department of Transportation: <http://www.iowadot.gov>

Iowa General Assembly: <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/>

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