

**House File 829 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 829

BY COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

(SUCCESSOR TO HF 393)

(SUCCESSOR TO HSB 86)

(COMPANION TO SF 444 BY

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION)

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to motor vehicles, including the surrender  
2 or transfer of registration plates and cards to a county  
3 treasurer, documentary fees charged by motor vehicle  
4 dealers, and motor vehicle franchise obligations.  
5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 321.26, subsection 2, Code 2021, is  
2 amended to read as follows:

3 2. The county treasurer may adjust the renewal or  
4 expiration date of vehicles registered in the county when  
5 deemed necessary to equalize the number of vehicles registered  
6 in each twelve-month period or for the administrative  
7 efficiency of the county treasurer's office. The adjustment  
8 shall be accomplished by delivery of a written notice to the  
9 vehicle owner of the adjustment and allowance of a credit  
10 for the remaining months of the unused portion of the annual  
11 registration fee, rounded to the nearest whole dollar, which  
12 amount shall be deducted from the annual registration fee due  
13 at the time of registration. Upon receipt of the notification  
14 the owner shall, within thirty days, surrender the registration  
15 card and registration plates to the a county treasurer of  
16 ~~the county where the vehicle is registered~~, except that the  
17 registration plates shall not be surrendered if validation  
18 stickers or other emblems are used to designate the month and  
19 year of expiration of registration. Upon payment of the annual  
20 registration fee, less the credit allowed for the remaining  
21 months of the unused portion of the annual registration  
22 fee, the county treasurer of the county where the vehicle is  
23 registered shall issue a new registration card and registration  
24 plates, validation stickers, or emblems which indicate the  
25 month and year of expiration of registration.

26 Sec. 2. Section 321.34, subsection 1, Code 2021, is amended  
27 to read as follows:

28 1. *Plates issued.* The county treasurer upon receiving  
29 application, accompanied by proper fee, for registration of a  
30 vehicle shall issue to the owner one registration plate for  
31 a motorcycle, motorized bicycle, autocycle, truck tractor,  
32 trailer, or semitrailer and two registration plates for every  
33 other motor vehicle. The registration plates, including  
34 special registration plates, shall be assigned to the owner of  
35 a vehicle. When the owner of a registered vehicle transfers or

1 assigns ownership of the vehicle to another person, the owner  
2 shall remove the registration plates from the vehicle. The  
3 owner shall forward the plates to ~~the~~ a county treasurer ~~where~~  
4 ~~the vehicle is registered~~ or the owner may have the plates  
5 assigned to another vehicle within thirty days after transfer,  
6 upon payment of the fees required by law. The owner shall  
7 immediately affix registration plates retained by the owner to  
8 another vehicle owned or acquired by the owner, providing the  
9 owner complies with [section 321.46](#). The department shall adopt  
10 rules providing for the assignment of registration plates to  
11 the transferee of a vehicle for which a credit is allowed under  
12 section 321.46, subsection 6.

13 Sec. 3. Section 321.47, subsection 3, Code 2021, is amended  
14 to read as follows:

15 3. Whenever ownership of a vehicle is transferred under the  
16 provisions of [this section](#), the registration plates shall be  
17 removed and forwarded to ~~the~~ a county treasurer, ~~of the county~~  
18 ~~where the vehicle is registered~~ or to the department if the  
19 vehicle is owned by a nonresident. Upon transfer the vehicle  
20 shall not be operated upon the highways of this state until the  
21 person entitled to possession of the vehicle applies for and  
22 obtains registration for the vehicle.

23 Sec. 4. Section 322.19A, subsection 3, Code 2021, is amended  
24 by striking the subsection.

25 Sec. 5. Section 322A.5, subsection 2, Code 2021, is amended  
26 by adding the following new paragraph:

27 NEW PARAGRAPH. *c.* The franchiser shall provide to the  
28 franchisee a list of time allowances for the performance of  
29 warranty services. Time allowances for the performance of  
30 warranty services, including diagnostic services, shall be  
31 reasonable and adequate for the services to be performed.

32 EXPLANATION

33 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with  
34 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

35 This bill allows a person who receives a written notice of

1 an adjustment of the renewal or expiration of the person's  
2 motor vehicle registration to surrender their registration card  
3 and registration plates to a county treasurer of any county  
4 in the state rather than the county treasurer of the county  
5 where the vehicle is registered. The bill further allows the  
6 registration plates of a motor vehicle on which ownership is  
7 transferred or assigned to another person pursuant to Code  
8 section 321.34(1) or transferred by operation of law pursuant  
9 to Code section 321.47(1) to be removed and forwarded to  
10 any county treasurer in the state rather than to the county  
11 treasurer of the county where the vehicle is registered. The  
12 bill does not modify Code section 321.134, which allows an  
13 owner of a motor vehicle who surrenders the registration plates  
14 of a vehicle prior to the plates becoming delinquent to the  
15 county treasurer of the county where the vehicle is registered  
16 to register the vehicle any time thereafter without penalty.

17 Under current law, a motor vehicle dealer may charge a  
18 documentary fee to a customer for the preparation of documents  
19 related to an application for motor vehicle registration and  
20 an application for issuance of a certificate of title, and  
21 the performance of other related services for the customer,  
22 which must not exceed \$180 for each motor vehicle sold in  
23 a transaction. The bill strikes the requirement that the  
24 maximum documentary fee be reduced by \$25 after the department  
25 of transportation has implemented a program to allow for  
26 electronic applications, titling, registering, and funds  
27 transfers for vehicles subject to registration.

28 Under the bill, a motor vehicle franchiser must provide a  
29 franchisee a list of time allowances for the performance of  
30 warranty services, which must be reasonable and adequate for  
31 the services to be performed.