

**House File 344 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 344

BY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

(SUCCESSOR TO HF 55)

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act regarding the registration and titling of motor  
2 vehicles, including by providing for initial registration  
3 and titling by any county treasurer and by modifying related  
4 fees and the amount of fees retained by county treasurers.  
5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 321.20, subsection 1, unnumbered  
2 paragraph 1, Code 2023, is amended to read as follows:  
3 Except as provided in [this chapter](#), an owner of a vehicle,  
4 or a lessor of a vehicle pursuant to chapter 321F which has a  
5 gross vehicle weight of less than ten thousand pounds, which  
6 is subject to registration, shall make application to the any  
7 county treasurer of the county of the owner's residence, or  
8 if a nonresident, to the county treasurer of the county where  
9 the primary users of the vehicle are located, or if a lessor  
10 of the vehicle pursuant to [chapter 321F](#) which vehicle has a  
11 gross vehicle weight of less than ten thousand pounds, to the  
12 county treasurer of the county of the lessee's residence,  
13 or if a firm, association, or corporation with vehicles in  
14 multiple counties, the owner may make application to the county  
15 treasurer of the county where the primary user of the vehicle  
16 is located, for the initial registration and issuance of a  
17 certificate of title for the vehicle upon the appropriate form  
18 furnished by the department. However, upon the transfer of  
19 ownership, the owner of a vehicle subject to the apportioned  
20 registration provisions of [chapter 326](#) shall make application  
21 for issuance of a certificate of title to either the department  
22 or ~~the appropriate~~ any county treasurer. The owner of a  
23 vehicle purchased pursuant to [section 578A.7](#) shall present  
24 documentation that such sale was completed in compliance  
25 with that section. The application shall be accompanied by  
26 a fee of ~~twenty~~ thirty dollars, and shall bear the owner's  
27 signature. A nonresident owner of two or more vehicles subject  
28 to registration may make application for initial registration  
29 and issuance of a certificate of title for all vehicles subject  
30 to registration to ~~the any~~ any county treasurer ~~of the county where~~  
31 ~~the primary user of any of the vehicles is located.~~ The owner  
32 of a mobile home or manufactured home shall make application  
33 for a certificate of title under [this section](#) from the county  
34 treasurer of the county where the mobile home or manufactured  
35 home is located. The application shall contain:

1     Sec. 2. Section 321.20, subsections 2, 3, and 4, Code 2023,  
2 are amended to read as follows:

3     2. Notwithstanding contrary provisions of [this chapter](#)  
4 or [chapter 326](#) regarding titling and registration by means  
5 other than electronic means, the department shall, ~~by July 1,~~  
6 ~~2019,~~ develop and implement a program to allow for electronic  
7 applications, titling, registering initial registrations, and  
8 funds transfers for vehicles subject to registration in order  
9 to improve the efficiency and timeliness of the processes and  
10 to reduce costs for all parties involved. The program shall  
11 also provide for the electronic submission of any statement  
12 required by [this section](#), except where prohibited by federal  
13 law.

14     3. The department shall adopt rules ~~on~~ pursuant to chapter  
15 17A to administer this section, including rules relating to the  
16 method for providing signatures for applications and statements  
17 required by [this section](#) that are made by electronic means.

18     ~~4. Notwithstanding [this section](#) or any other provision of~~  
19 ~~law to the contrary, if the program required by subsection~~  
20 ~~2 is not implemented by July 1, 2019, an owner of a vehicle~~  
21 ~~subject to registration may apply to the county treasurer of a~~  
22 ~~county contiguous to the county designated for the owner under~~  
23 ~~[subsection 1](#) for registration and issuance of a certificate of~~  
24 ~~title.~~

25     Sec. 3. Section 321.20A, subsection 1, Code 2023, is amended  
26 to read as follows:

27     1. Notwithstanding other provisions of [this chapter](#),  
28 the owner of a commercial vehicle subject to the apportioned  
29 registration provisions of [chapter 326](#) may make application  
30 to the department or ~~the appropriate~~ any county treasurer  
31 for a certificate of title. The owner of a commercial  
32 vehicle purchased pursuant to [section 578A.7](#) shall present  
33 documentation that such sale was completed in compliance with  
34 that section. The application for certificate of title shall  
35 be made within thirty days of purchase or transfer and shall be

1 accompanied by a ~~twenty-dollar~~ thirty-dollar title fee and the  
2 appropriate fee for new registration. The department or the  
3 county treasurer shall deliver the certificate of title to the  
4 owner if there is no security interest. If there is a security  
5 interest, the title, when issued, shall be delivered to the  
6 first secured party. Delivery may be made using electronic  
7 means.

8 Sec. 4. Section 321.23, subsections 3 and 4, Code 2023, are  
9 amended to read as follows:

10 3. In the event an applicant for initial registration of  
11 a foreign vehicle for which a certificate of title has been  
12 issued is able to furnish evidence of being the registered  
13 owner of the vehicle to ~~the~~ any county treasurer ~~of the owner's~~  
14 ~~residence~~, although unable to surrender such certificate  
15 of title, the county treasurer may issue a registration  
16 receipt and plates upon receipt of the required annual  
17 registration fee and the fee for new registration but shall  
18 not issue a certificate of title thereto. Upon surrender of  
19 the certificate of title from the foreign state, the county  
20 treasurer shall issue a certificate of title to the owner,  
21 or person entitled thereto, of such vehicle as provided in  
22 this chapter. The owner of a vehicle registered under this  
23 subsection shall not be required to obtain a certificate of  
24 title in this state and may transfer ownership of the vehicle  
25 to a motor vehicle dealer licensed under [chapter 322](#) or an  
26 insurance carrier authorized to do business in this state  
27 if, at the time of the transfer, the certificate of title is  
28 held by a secured party and the dealer or insurance carrier,  
29 as applicable, has forwarded to the secured party the sum  
30 necessary to discharge the security interest pursuant to  
31 section 321.48, subsection 1.

32 4. A vehicle which does not meet the equipment requirements  
33 of [this chapter](#) due to the particular use for which it is  
34 designed or intended, may be registered by the department  
35 upon payment of appropriate fees and after inspection and

1 certification by the department that the vehicle is not  
2 in an unsafe condition. A person is not required to have  
3 a certificate of title to register a vehicle under this  
4 subsection. If the owner elects to have a certificate of title  
5 issued for the vehicle, a fee of ~~twenty~~ thirty dollars shall be  
6 paid by the person making the application upon issuance of a  
7 certificate of title. If the department's inspection reveals  
8 that the vehicle may be safely operated only under certain  
9 conditions or on certain types of roadways, the department may  
10 restrict the registration to limit operation of the vehicle to  
11 the appropriate conditions or roadways. [This subsection](#) does  
12 not apply to snowmobiles as defined in [section 321G.1](#). Section  
13 321.382 does not apply to a vehicle registered under this  
14 subsection which is operated exclusively by a person with a  
15 disability who has obtained a persons with disabilities parking  
16 permit as provided in [section 321L.2](#), if the persons with  
17 disabilities parking permit is carried in or on the vehicle and  
18 shown to a peace officer on request.

19 Sec. 5. Section 321.25, subsection 1, Code 2023, is amended  
20 to read as follows:

21 1. A vehicle may be operated upon the highways of this  
22 state without registration plates for a period of forty-five  
23 days after the date of delivery of the vehicle to the purchaser  
24 from a dealer if a card bearing the words "registration applied  
25 for" is attached on the rear of the vehicle. The card shall  
26 have plainly stamped or stenciled the registration number of  
27 the dealer from whom the vehicle was purchased and the date  
28 of delivery of the vehicle. In addition, a dealer licensed  
29 to sell new motor vehicles may attach the card to a new motor  
30 vehicle delivered by the dealer to the purchaser even if the  
31 vehicle was purchased from an out-of-state dealer and the card  
32 shall bear the registration number of the dealer that delivered  
33 the vehicle. A dealer shall not issue a card to a person known  
34 to the dealer to be in possession of registration plates which  
35 may be attached to the vehicle. A dealer shall not issue a card

1 unless an application for initial registration and certificate  
2 of title has been made by the purchaser and a receipt issued to  
3 the purchaser of the vehicle showing the fee paid by the person  
4 making the application. Dealers' records shall indicate the  
5 agency to which the fee is sent and the date the fee is sent.  
6 The dealer shall forward the application by the purchaser to  
7 the county treasurer or state office within thirty calendar  
8 days from the date of delivery of the vehicle. However, if the  
9 vehicle is subject to a security interest and has been offered  
10 for sale pursuant to [section 321.48, subsection 1](#), the dealer  
11 shall forward the application by the purchaser to the county  
12 treasurer or state office within thirty calendar days from the  
13 date of the delivery of the vehicle to the purchaser.

14 Sec. 6. Section 321.26, subsection 2, Code 2023, is amended  
15 to read as follows:

16 2. The county treasurer may adjust the registration renewal  
17 or expiration date of vehicles ~~registered in the county for~~  
18 which the county treasurer is responsible for renewal under  
19 section 321.40 when deemed necessary to equalize the number  
20 of vehicles registered in each twelve-month period or for the  
21 administrative efficiency of the county treasurer's office.  
22 The adjustment shall be accomplished by delivery of a written  
23 notice to the vehicle owner of the adjustment and allowance of  
24 a credit for the remaining months of the unused portion of the  
25 annual registration fee, rounded to the nearest whole dollar,  
26 which amount shall be deducted from the annual registration  
27 fee due at the time of registration. Upon receipt of the  
28 notification the owner shall, within thirty days, surrender  
29 the registration card and registration plates to a any county  
30 treasurer, except that the registration plates shall not be  
31 surrendered if validation stickers or other emblems are used  
32 to designate the month and year of expiration of registration.  
33 Upon payment of the annual registration fee, less the credit  
34 allowed for the remaining months of the unused portion of the  
35 annual registration fee, the county treasurer ~~of the county~~

1 ~~where the vehicle is registered~~ that adjusted the registration  
2 renewal or expiration date of the vehicle shall issue a new  
3 registration card and registration plates, validation stickers,  
4 or emblems which indicate the month and year of expiration of  
5 registration.

6 Sec. 7. Section 321.29, Code 2023, is amended to read as  
7 follows:

8 **321.29 Renewal not permitted.**

9 Any vehicle once registered in the state and by removal no  
10 longer subject to registration in this state, shall upon being  
11 returned to this state and subject to registration be again  
12 initially registered in accordance with [section 321.20](#).

13 Sec. 8. Section 321.34, subsection 1, Code 2023, is amended  
14 to read as follows:

15 1. *Plates issued.* The county treasurer upon receiving  
16 application, accompanied by proper fee, for registration of a  
17 vehicle shall issue to the owner one registration plate for  
18 a motorcycle, motorized bicycle, autocycle, truck tractor,  
19 trailer, or semitrailer and two registration plates for every  
20 other motor vehicle. The registration plates, including  
21 special registration plates, shall be assigned to the owner of  
22 a vehicle. When the owner of a registered vehicle transfers or  
23 assigns ownership of the vehicle to another person, the owner  
24 shall remove the registration plates from the vehicle. The  
25 owner shall forward the plates to a any county treasurer or the  
26 owner may have the plates assigned to another vehicle within  
27 thirty days after transfer, upon payment of the fees required  
28 by law. The owner shall immediately affix registration plates  
29 retained by the owner to another vehicle owned or acquired by  
30 the owner, providing the owner complies with [section 321.46](#).  
31 The department shall adopt rules providing for the assignment  
32 of registration plates to the transferee of a vehicle for which  
33 a credit is allowed under [section 321.46, subsection 6](#).

34 Sec. 9. Section 321.40, subsection 1, Code 2023, is amended  
35 to read as follows:

1 1. Application for renewal for a vehicle registered under  
2 this chapter shall be made on or after the first day of the  
3 month prior to the month of expiration of registration and up  
4 to and including the last day of the month following the month  
5 of expiration of registration. The application for renewal  
6 shall be submitted to the county treasurer of the county of  
7 the owner's residence; or if a nonresident, to the county  
8 treasurer of the county where the primary users of the vehicle  
9 are located; or if a lessor of the vehicle pursuant to chapter  
10 321F which has a gross vehicle weight of less than ten thousand  
11 pounds, to the county treasurer of the county of the lessee's  
12 residence; or if a firm, association, or corporation with  
13 vehicles in multiple counties, to the county treasurer of the  
14 county where the primary user of the vehicle is located. The  
15 registration shall be renewed upon payment of the appropriate  
16 annual registration fee. Application for renewal for a vehicle  
17 registered under [chapter 326](#) shall be made on or after the  
18 first day of the month prior to the month of expiration of  
19 registration and up to and including the last day of the month  
20 of expiration of registration.

21 Sec. 10. Section 321.42, subsection 2, paragraphs a, c, and  
22 d, Code 2023, are amended to read as follows:

23 a. If a certificate of title is lost or destroyed, the  
24 owner or lienholder shall apply for a replacement copy of the  
25 original certificate of title. The owner or lienholder of a  
26 motor vehicle may also apply for a replacement copy of the  
27 original certificate of title upon surrender of the original  
28 certificate of title with the application. The application  
29 shall be made to the department or any county treasurer ~~who~~  
30 ~~issued the original certificate of title.~~ The application  
31 shall be signed by the owner or lienholder and accompanied by a  
32 fee of ~~twenty~~ thirty dollars.

33 c. If a security interest noted on the face of an original  
34 certificate of title was released by the lienholder on a  
35 separate form pursuant to [section 321.50, subsection 5](#), and



1 the signature of the lienholder, or the person executing the  
2 release on behalf of the lienholder, is notarized, but the  
3 lienholder has not delivered the original certificate to the  
4 appropriate party as provided in [section 321.50, subsection 5](#),  
5 the owner may apply for and receive a replacement certificate  
6 of title without the released security interest noted thereon.  
7 The lienholder shall return the original certificate of title  
8 to the department or to the any county treasurer ~~of the county~~  
9 ~~where the title was issued.~~

10 *d.* A new purchaser or transferee is entitled to receive  
11 an original title upon presenting the assigned replacement  
12 copy to the any county treasurer ~~of the county where the new~~  
13 ~~purchaser or transferee resides.~~ At the time of purchase, a  
14 purchaser may require the seller to indemnify the purchaser and  
15 all future purchasers of the vehicle against any loss which  
16 may be suffered due to claims on the original certificate. A  
17 person recovering an original certificate of title for which  
18 a replacement has been issued shall surrender the original  
19 certificate to the county treasurer or the department.

20 Sec. 11. Section 321.46, subsections 1, 2, and 5, Code 2023,  
21 are amended to read as follows:

22 1. The transferee shall, within thirty calendar days after  
23 purchase or transfer, apply for and obtain from the any county  
24 ~~treasurer of the person's residence, or if a nonresident, the~~  
25 ~~county treasurer of the county where the primary users of the~~  
26 ~~vehicle are located or the county where all other vehicles~~  
27 ~~owned by the nonresident are registered, or in the case of a~~  
28 ~~mobile home or manufactured home, the county treasurer of the~~  
29 ~~county where the mobile home or manufactured home is located,~~  
30 ~~or if a firm, association, or corporation with vehicles in~~  
31 ~~multiple counties, the transferee may apply for and obtain from~~  
32 ~~the county treasurer of the county where the primary user of~~  
33 ~~the vehicle is located,~~ a new initial registration and a new  
34 certificate of title for the vehicle, except as provided in  
35 section 321.25, [321.48](#), or [322G.12](#), or when the transferee

1 obtains the vehicle pursuant to [section 321.52, subsection 2,](#)  
2 paragraph "b". In the case of a mobile home or manufactured  
3 home, the transferee shall, within thirty calendar days after  
4 purchase or transfer, apply for and obtain from the county  
5 treasurer of the county where the mobile home or manufactured  
6 home is located a new certificate of title. The transferee  
7 shall present with the application the certificate of title  
8 endorsed and assigned by the previous owner and shall indicate  
9 the name of the county in which the vehicle was last registered  
10 and the registration expiration date.

11 2. Upon filing the application for a new initial  
12 registration and a new title, the applicant shall pay a title  
13 fee of ~~twenty~~ thirty dollars, an annual registration fee  
14 prorated for the remaining unexpired months of the registration  
15 year, and a fee for new registration if applicable. A  
16 manufacturer applying for a certificate of title pursuant  
17 to [section 322G.12](#) shall pay a title fee of ~~ten~~ twenty  
18 dollars. However, a title fee shall not be charged to a  
19 manufactured or mobile home retailer applying for a certificate  
20 of title for a used mobile home or manufactured home, titled  
21 in Iowa, as required under [section 321.45, subsection 4.](#)  
22 The county treasurer, if satisfied of the genuineness and  
23 regularity of the application, and in the case of a mobile  
24 home or manufactured home, that taxes are not owing under  
25 chapter 435, and that applicant has complied with all the  
26 requirements of [this chapter](#), shall issue a new certificate  
27 of title and, except for a mobile home, manufactured home,  
28 or a vehicle returned to and accepted by a manufacturer as  
29 described in [section 322G.12](#), a registration card to the  
30 purchaser or transferee, shall cancel the prior registration  
31 for the vehicle, and shall forward the necessary copies to the  
32 department on the date of issuance, as prescribed in section  
33 321.24. Mobile homes or manufactured homes titled under  
34 chapter 448 that have been subject under [section 446.18](#) to a  
35 public bidder sale in a county shall be titled in the county's

1 name, with no fee, and the county treasurer shall issue the  
2 title.

3 5. The seller or transferor may file an affidavit on  
4 forms prescribed and provided by the department with ~~the any~~  
5 county treasurer ~~of the county where the vehicle is registered~~  
6 certifying the sale or transfer of ownership of the vehicle  
7 and the assignment and delivery of the certificate of title  
8 for the vehicle. Upon receipt of the affidavit, the county  
9 treasurer shall file the affidavit with the copy of the  
10 registration receipt for the vehicle on file in the treasurer's  
11 office and on that day the treasurer shall note receipt of the  
12 affidavit in the vehicle registration and titling system. Upon  
13 filing the affidavit, it shall be presumed that the seller or  
14 transferor has assigned and delivered the certificate of title  
15 for the vehicle. For a leased vehicle, the lessor licensed  
16 pursuant to [chapter 321F](#) or the lessee may file an affidavit  
17 as provided in [this subsection](#) certifying that the lease has  
18 expired or been terminated and the date that the leased vehicle  
19 was surrendered to the lessor.

20 Sec. 12. Section 321.47, subsections 1 and 3, Code 2023, are  
21 amended to read as follows:

22 1. If ownership of a vehicle is transferred by operation of  
23 law upon inheritance, devise or bequest, dissolution decree,  
24 order in bankruptcy, insolvency, replevin, foreclosure or  
25 execution sale, abandoned vehicle sale, or when the engine of a  
26 motor vehicle is replaced by another engine, or a vehicle is  
27 sold or transferred to satisfy an artisan's lien as provided  
28 in [chapter 577](#), a landlord's lien as provided in [chapter 570](#),  
29 a self-service storage facility lien as provided in section  
30 578A.7, a storage lien as provided in [chapter 579](#), a judgment  
31 in an action for abandonment of a manufactured or mobile home  
32 as provided in [chapter 555B](#), upon presentation of an affidavit  
33 relating to the disposition of a valueless mobile, modular, or  
34 manufactured home as provided in [chapter 555C](#), or repossession  
35 is had upon default in performance of the terms of a security

1 agreement, ~~the any county treasurer in the transferee's county~~  
2 ~~of residence~~ or, in the case of a mobile home or manufactured  
3 home, the county treasurer of the county where the mobile home  
4 or manufactured home is located, upon the surrender of the  
5 prior certificate of title or the manufacturer's or importer's  
6 certificate, or when that is not possible, upon presentation  
7 of satisfactory proof to the county treasurer of ownership and  
8 right of possession to the vehicle and upon payment of a fee of  
9 ~~twenty~~ thirty dollars and the presentation of an application  
10 for initial registration and certificate of title, may issue  
11 to the applicant a registration card for the vehicle and a  
12 certificate of title to the vehicle. A person entitled to  
13 ownership of a vehicle under a decree of dissolution shall  
14 surrender a reproduction of a certified copy of the dissolution  
15 and upon fulfilling the other requirements of [this chapter](#) is  
16 entitled to a certificate of title and registration receipt  
17 issued in the person's name.

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

26 Sec. 13. Section 321.48, subsection 2, Code 2023, is amended  
27 to read as follows:

28 2. A foreign registered vehicle purchased or otherwise  
29 acquired by a dealer for the purpose of resale shall be issued  
30 a certificate of title for the vehicle by ~~the any~~ county  
31 treasurer ~~of the dealer's residence~~ upon proper application  
32 as provided in [this chapter](#) and upon payment of a fee of ~~five~~  
33 fifteen dollars and the dealer is exempt from the payment of  
34 any and all registration fees for the vehicle. The application  
35 for certificate of title shall be made within thirty days

1 after the vehicle comes within the border of the state.  
2 However, a dealer acquiring a vehicle registered in another  
3 state which permits Iowa dealers to reassign that state's  
4 certificates of title shall not be required to obtain a new  
5 initial registration or a new certificate of title and upon  
6 transferring title or interest to another person shall execute  
7 an assignment upon the certificate of title for the vehicle  
8 to the person to whom the transfer is made and deliver the  
9 assigned certificate of title to the person.

10 Sec. 14. Section 321.49, subsection 1, Code 2023, is amended  
11 to read as follows:

12 1. Except as provided in [section 321.52](#), if an application  
13 for transfer of registration and certificate of title is not  
14 submitted to the any county treasurer ~~of the residence of~~  
15 ~~the transferee~~ within thirty days of the date of assignment  
16 or transfer of title, or within thirty days of the date of  
17 delivery to the purchaser if the vehicle is subject to a  
18 security interest and was offered for sale pursuant to section  
19 321.48, subsection 1, a penalty of ten dollars shall accrue  
20 against the applicant, and no registration card or certificate  
21 of title shall be issued to the applicant for the vehicle until  
22 the penalty is paid.

23 Sec. 15. Section 321.50, subsection 1, Code 2023, is amended  
24 to read as follows:

25 1. A security interest in a vehicle subject to registration  
26 under the laws of this state ~~or a mobile home or manufactured~~  
27 ~~home~~, except trailers whose empty weight is two thousand  
28 pounds or less, and except new or used vehicles held by a  
29 dealer or manufacturer as inventory for sale, is perfected by  
30 the delivery to the any county treasurer ~~of the county where~~  
31 ~~the certificate of title was issued or, in the case of a new~~  
32 ~~certificate, to the county treasurer where the certificate will~~  
33 ~~be issued~~, of an application for certificate of title which  
34 lists the security interest, or an application for notation  
35 of security interest signed by the owner or by one owner of

1 a vehicle owned jointly by more than one person, or signed  
2 through electronic means as determined by the department, or a  
3 certificate of title from another jurisdiction which shows the  
4 security interest, and payment of a fee of ~~ten~~ twenty dollars  
5 for each security interest shown. The security interest in a  
6 mobile home or manufactured home is perfected by the delivery  
7 to the county treasurer of the county where the certificate  
8 of title was issued or, in the case of a new certificate, to  
9 the county treasurer where the certificate will be issued,  
10 of an application for certificate of title which lists the  
11 security interest, or an application for notation of security  
12 interest signed by the owner or by one owner when owned jointly  
13 by more than one person, or signed through electronic means  
14 as determined by the department, or a certificate of title  
15 from another jurisdiction which shows the security interest,  
16 and payment of a fee of twenty dollars for each security  
17 interest shown. The department shall require the federal  
18 employer identification number of a secured party who is a  
19 firm, association, or corporation or, if a natural person,  
20 the social security number. Upon delivery of the application  
21 and payment of the fee, the county treasurer shall note the  
22 date of delivery on the application. If the delivery is by  
23 electronic means and the time is electronically recorded on the  
24 application along with the date, the time shall be included  
25 with the date on all subsequent documents and records where the  
26 date of perfection is required under [this chapter](#). The date  
27 of delivery shall be the date of perfection of the security  
28 interest in the vehicle, regardless of the date the security  
29 interest is noted on the certificate of title. Up to three  
30 security interests may be perfected against a vehicle and shown  
31 on an Iowa certificate of title. If the owner or secured party  
32 is in possession of the certificate of title, it must also be  
33 delivered at this time. If a vehicle is subject to a security  
34 interest when brought into this state, the validity of the  
35 security interest and the date of perfection is determined by

1 section 554.9303. Delivery as provided in [this subsection](#)  
2 constitutes perfection of a security interest on a certificate  
3 of title for purposes of [this chapter](#) and [chapter 554](#).

4 Sec. 16. Section 321.50, subsection 5, paragraphs a and c,  
5 Code 2023, are amended to read as follows:

6 a. When a security interest is discharged, the holder  
7 shall note a cancellation of the security interest on the  
8 face of the certificate of title over the holder's signature  
9 or may note the cancellation of the security interest on a  
10 separate, notarized release form or letter. The holder shall  
11 deliver the certificate of title and the form or letter, if  
12 applicable, to ~~the~~ any county treasurer ~~where the title was~~  
13 ~~issued~~. In the case of a security interest that has been  
14 delivered by electronic means, the holder shall notify the  
15 department or the county treasurer, in a manner prescribed  
16 by the department, of the release of the security interest.  
17 The county treasurer shall immediately note the cancellation  
18 of the security interest on the face of the certificate of  
19 title, if applicable, and in the county records system. The  
20 county treasurer shall on the same day deliver the certificate  
21 of title, if applicable, and the separate, notarized release  
22 form or letter, if applicable, to the then first secured party  
23 or, if there is no such person, to the person as directed by  
24 the owner, in writing, on a form prescribed by the department  
25 or, if there is no person designated, then to the owner. The  
26 cancellation of the security interest shall be noted on the  
27 certificate of title by the county treasurer without charge.  
28 The holder of a security interest discharged by payment who  
29 fails to release the security interest within fifteen days  
30 after being requested in writing to do so shall forfeit to the  
31 person making the payment the sum of twenty-five dollars.

32 c. When a security interest is discharged, the lienholder  
33 shall note the cancellation of the security interest on the  
34 face of the title and, if applicable, may note the cancellation  
35 of the security interest on a form prescribed by the department

1 and deliver a copy of the form in lieu of the title to the  
 2 department or to the any county treasurer ~~of the county in~~  
 3 ~~which the title was issued~~. The form may be delivered by  
 4 electronic means. The department or county treasurer shall  
 5 note the release of the security interest upon the statewide  
 6 computer system and the county's records. A copy of the form,  
 7 if used, shall be attached to the title by the lienholder, if  
 8 the title is held by the lienholder, and shall be evidence of  
 9 the release of the security interest. If the title is held  
 10 by the lienholder, the lienholder shall deliver the title to  
 11 the first lienholder, or if there is no such person, to the  
 12 person as designated by the owner, or if there is no such  
 13 person designated, to the owner. If a certificate of title  
 14 has not been issued, upon release of a security interest, the  
 15 lienholder shall notify the department or the county treasurer,  
 16 in a manner prescribed by the department, of the release of the  
 17 security interest.

18 Sec. 17. Section 321.52, subsection 2, paragraph a, Code  
 19 2023, is amended to read as follows:

20 a. The purchaser or transferee of a motor vehicle subject to  
 21 registration for which a certificate of title is issued which  
 22 is sold for scrap or junk shall surrender the certificate of  
 23 title, properly endorsed and signed by the previous owner, to  
 24 the any county treasurer ~~of the county of residence of the~~  
 25 ~~transferee~~, and shall apply for a junking certificate from the  
 26 county treasurer, within thirty days after assignment of the  
 27 certificate of title, except when the vehicle is disposed of  
 28 pursuant to paragraph "b". The county treasurer shall issue  
 29 to such person without fee a junking certificate. A junking  
 30 certificate shall authorize the holder to possess, transport,  
 31 or transfer by endorsement the ownership of the junked vehicle.  
 32 A certificate of title shall not again be issued for the  
 33 vehicle subsequent to the issuance of a junking certificate  
 34 except as provided in [subsection 3](#). The county treasurer shall  
 35 cancel the record of the vehicle. The junking certificate



1 shall be printed on the registration receipt form and shall be  
2 imprinted with the words "junking certificate", as prescribed  
3 by the department. A space for transfer by endorsement  
4 shall be on the junking certificate. A separate form for the  
5 notation of the transfer of component parts shall be attached  
6 to the junking certificate when the certificate is issued.

7 Sec. 18. Section 321.52, subsection 4, paragraphs a and b,  
8 Code 2023, are amended to read as follows:

9 a. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the  
10 contrary, an insurer may apply for and be issued a salvage  
11 certificate of title for a motor vehicle without surrendering  
12 the certificate of title or manufacturer's or importer's  
13 statement of origin properly assigned if ownership of the  
14 vehicle was transferred, or will transfer, to the insurer  
15 pursuant to a settlement with the previous owner of the vehicle  
16 arising from circumstances involving damage to the vehicle,  
17 and at least thirty days have expired since the effective  
18 date of such settlement. To obtain a salvage certificate  
19 of title pursuant to this paragraph "a", the insurer shall  
20 submit an application for a salvage certificate of title to  
21 ~~the any county treasurer of the county in which the vehicle~~  
22 ~~is stored by or on behalf of the insurer.~~ The application  
23 shall be accompanied by an affidavit from the insurer in  
24 which the insurer certifies it has made at least two written  
25 attempts to obtain a properly assigned certificate of title  
26 or manufacturer's or importer's statement of origin for the  
27 vehicle by contacting the previous owner of the vehicle and all  
28 lienholders of record by certified mail or a similar service  
29 that provides proof of service using a return receipt, and  
30 has been unable to obtain the title or statement of origin.  
31 The failure of a previous owner or lienholder to provide a  
32 properly assigned certificate of title or manufacturer's or  
33 importer's statement of origin shall be deemed to be a waiver  
34 by the previous owner or lienholder of all rights, title,  
35 claim, and interest in the vehicle. The application shall also

1 be accompanied by the application fee required under paragraph  
 2 "b", and proof of payment of the total amount of the settlement  
 3 by the insurer to the previous owner of the vehicle. Upon  
 4 receiving an application that complies with this paragraph "a",  
 5 the county treasurer shall issue a salvage certificate of title  
 6 to the insurer which shall be free and clear of all liens and  
 7 claims of ownership and shall bear the word "SALVAGE" stamped  
 8 or printed on the face of the title in a manner prescribed by  
 9 the department.

10     **b.** A vehicle rebuilder or a person engaged in the business  
 11 of buying, selling, or exchanging vehicles of a type required  
 12 to be registered in this state, upon acquisition of a wrecked  
 13 or salvage vehicle, shall surrender the certificate of  
 14 title or manufacturer's or importer's statement of origin  
 15 properly assigned, together with an application for a salvage  
 16 certificate of title, to the any county treasurer ~~of the county~~  
 17 ~~of residence of the purchaser or transferee~~ within thirty  
 18 days after the date of assignment of the certificate of title  
 19 for the wrecked or salvage motor vehicle. **This subsection**  
 20 applies only to vehicles with a fair market value of five  
 21 hundred dollars or more, based on the value before the vehicle  
 22 became wrecked or salvage. Upon payment of a fee of ~~ten~~ twenty  
 23 dollars, the county treasurer shall issue a salvage certificate  
 24 of title which shall bear the word "SALVAGE" stamped or  
 25 printed on the face of the title in a manner prescribed by the  
 26 department. A salvage certificate of title may be assigned  
 27 to an educational institution, a new motor vehicle dealer  
 28 licensed under **chapter 322**, a person engaged in the business  
 29 of purchasing bodies, parts of bodies, frames or component  
 30 parts of vehicles for sale as scrap metal, a salvage pool, or  
 31 an authorized vehicle recycler licensed under **chapter 321H**. An  
 32 authorized vehicle recycler licensed under **chapter 321H** or a  
 33 new motor vehicle dealer licensed under **chapter 322** may assign  
 34 or reassign an Iowa salvage certificate of title or a salvage  
 35 certificate of title from another state to any person, and the

1 provisions of [section 321.24, subsection 5](#), requiring issuance  
2 of an Iowa salvage certificate of title shall not apply. A  
3 vehicle on which ownership has transferred to an insurer of  
4 the vehicle as a result of a settlement with the owner of the  
5 vehicle arising out of damage to, or unrecovered theft of, the  
6 vehicle shall be deemed to be a wrecked or salvage vehicle  
7 and the insurer shall comply with [this subsection](#) to obtain a  
8 salvage certificate of title within thirty days after the date  
9 of assignment of the certificate of title of the vehicle.

10 Sec. 19. Section 321.105A, subsection 2, unnumbered  
11 paragraph 1, Code 2023, is amended to read as follows:

12 In addition to the annual registration fee required under  
13 section 321.105, a "fee for new registration" is imposed in  
14 the amount of ten dollars plus five percent of the purchase  
15 price for each vehicle subject to registration. The fee for  
16 new registration shall be paid by the owner of the vehicle to  
17 the county treasurer at the time application is made for a new  
18 initial registration and certificate of title, if applicable.  
19 A new registration receipt shall not be issued until the  
20 fee has been paid. The county treasurer or the department  
21 of transportation shall require every applicant for a new  
22 registration receipt for a vehicle subject to registration to  
23 supply information as the county treasurer or the director  
24 deems necessary as to the time of purchase, the purchase  
25 price, and other information relative to the purchase of the  
26 vehicle. On or before the tenth day of each month, the county  
27 treasurer or the department of transportation shall remit  
28 to the department of revenue the amount of the fees for new  
29 registration collected during the preceding month.

30 Sec. 20. Section 321.105A, subsection 3, paragraph a, Code  
31 2023, is amended to read as follows:

32 a. A fee for new registration is imposed in an amount equal  
33 to ten dollars plus five percent of the leased price for each  
34 vehicle subject to registration which is leased by a lessor  
35 licensed pursuant to [chapter 321F](#) for a period of six months

1 or more. The fee for new registration shall be paid by the  
2 owner of the vehicle to the county treasurer from whom the  
3 registration receipt or certificate of title is obtained. A  
4 registration receipt for a vehicle subject to registration or  
5 issuance of a certificate of title shall not be issued until  
6 the fee for new registration is paid in the initial instance.

7 Sec. 21. Section 321.109, subsection 1, paragraph a, Code  
8 2023, is amended to read as follows:

9 a. The annual fee for all motor vehicles including vehicles  
10 designated by manufacturers as station wagons, 1993 and  
11 subsequent model year multipurpose vehicles, and 2010 and  
12 subsequent model year motor trucks with an unladen weight of  
13 ten thousand pounds or less, except motor trucks registered  
14 under [section 321.122](#), business-trade trucks, special trucks,  
15 motor homes, motorsports recreational vehicles, ambulances,  
16 hearses, autocycles, motorcycles, motorized bicycles, and 1992  
17 and older model year multipurpose vehicles, shall be equal  
18 to one percent of the value as fixed by the department plus  
19 forty cents for each one hundred pounds or fraction thereof  
20 of weight of vehicle, as fixed by the department. The weight  
21 of a motor vehicle, fixed by the department for registration  
22 purposes, shall include the weight of a battery, heater,  
23 bumpers, spare tire, and wheel. Provided, however, that for  
24 any new vehicle purchased in this state by a nonresident  
25 for removal to the nonresident's state of residence the  
26 purchaser may make application to ~~the~~ any county treasurer  
27 ~~in the county of purchase~~ for a transit plate for which a  
28 fee of ten dollars shall be paid. And provided, however,  
29 that for any used vehicle held by a registered dealer and  
30 not currently registered in this state, or for any vehicle  
31 held by an individual and currently registered in this state,  
32 when purchased in this state by a nonresident for removal  
33 to the nonresident's state of residence, the purchaser may  
34 make application to ~~the~~ any county treasurer ~~in the county~~  
35 ~~of purchase~~ for a transit plate for which a fee of three

1 dollars shall be paid. The county treasurer shall issue a  
2 nontransferable certificate of registration for which no  
3 refund shall be allowed; and the transit plates shall be void  
4 thirty days after issuance. Such purchaser may apply for a  
5 certificate of title by surrendering the manufacturer's or  
6 importer's certificate or certificate of title, duly assigned  
7 as provided in [this chapter](#). In this event, the county  
8 ~~treasurer in the county of purchase~~ shall, when satisfied with  
9 the genuineness and regularity of the application, and upon  
10 payment of a fee of ~~twenty~~ thirty dollars, issue a certificate  
11 of title in the name and address of the nonresident purchaser  
12 delivering the title to the owner. If there is a security  
13 interest noted on the title, the county treasurer shall mail  
14 to the secured party an acknowledgment of the notation of the  
15 security interest. The county treasurer shall not release a  
16 security interest that has been noted on a title issued to  
17 a nonresident purchaser as provided in this paragraph. The  
18 application requirements of [section 321.20](#) apply to a title  
19 issued as provided in [this subsection](#), except that a natural  
20 person who applies for a certificate of title shall provide  
21 either the person's social security number, passport number,  
22 or driver's license number, whether the license was issued by  
23 this state, another state, or another country. The provisions  
24 of [this subsection](#) relating to multipurpose vehicles are  
25 effective for all 1993 and subsequent model years. The annual  
26 registration fee for multipurpose vehicles that are 1992 model  
27 years and older shall be in accordance with [section 321.124](#).

28 Sec. 22. Section 321.109, subsection 3, Code 2023, is  
29 amended to read as follows:

30 3. The owner of an unregistered motor vehicle or motor  
31 vehicle for which the registration is delinquent may make  
32 application to the any county treasurer ~~of the county of~~  
33 ~~residence or, if the unregistered or delinquent motor vehicle~~  
34 ~~is purchased by a nonresident of the state, to the county~~  
35 ~~treasurer in the county of purchase,~~ for a temporary thirty-day

1 permit for a fee of twenty-five dollars. The permit shall  
2 authorize the motor vehicle to be driven or towed upon the  
3 highway, but shall not authorize a motor truck or truck tractor  
4 to haul or tow a load. The permit fee shall not be considered a  
5 registration fee or exempt the owner from payment of all other  
6 fees, registration fees, and penalties due. If the annual  
7 registration fee for the motor vehicle is delinquent, the  
8 annual registration fee and penalty shall continue to accrue  
9 until paid. The permit fee shall not be prorated, refunded, or  
10 used as credit as provided under [section 321.46](#). The permit  
11 shall be displayed in the upper left-hand corner of the rear  
12 window of all motor vehicles, except motorcycles. Permits  
13 issued for a motorcycle shall be attached to the rear of the  
14 motorcycle.

15 Sec. 23. Section 321.126, subsection 1, paragraph g, Code  
16 2023, is amended to read as follows:

17 *g.* If the vehicle was leased and an affidavit was filed  
18 by the lessor or the lessee as provided in [section 321.46](#),  
19 the lessor or the lessee, as applicable, may make a claim for  
20 a refund with the county treasurer of the county where the  
21 vehicle was registered within six months of the vehicle's  
22 surrender to the lessor. The refund shall be paid to either  
23 the lessor or the lessee, as specified on the application for  
24 title and initial registration pursuant to [section 321.20](#).

25 Sec. 24. Section 321.152, subsection 1, paragraphs b, d, and  
26 f, Code 2023, are amended to read as follows:

27 *b.* ~~Two~~ Twelve dollars and fifty cents from each fee  
28 collected for certificates of title.

29 *d.* ~~Sixty percent~~ Sixteen dollars of ~~all fees~~ each fee  
30 collected for perfection of security interests.

31 *f.* ~~One dollar~~ Eleven dollars from each fee for new  
32 registration collected pursuant to [section 321.105A](#).

33

EXPLANATION

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

1 Under current law, only certain county treasurers are  
2 allowed to do certain actions relating to motor vehicle  
3 registration and titling. This bill provides that any county  
4 treasurer can do any of the following: accept applications  
5 for initial registration and issue initial registrations  
6 and certificates of title to owners of vehicles, owners of  
7 commercial vehicles, owners of certain foreign vehicles, owners  
8 of transferred vehicles, owners of vehicles with a lost or  
9 damaged certificate of title, owners of vehicles transferred by  
10 law, and nonresident purchasers of vehicles; accept the return  
11 of an original certificate of title from a lienholder; issue an  
12 original certificate of title to a new purchaser or transferee  
13 who presents an assigned replacement copy; receive affidavits  
14 certifying the sale or transfer of ownership of a vehicle;  
15 issue certificates of title to dealers in possession of foreign  
16 registered vehicles; receive applications for the transfer  
17 of registration and certificates of title; perfect security  
18 interests; accept certificates of title, or other forms,  
19 noting that a security interest has been discharged; receive  
20 certificates of title of vehicles that have been sold for scrap  
21 or junk; accept applications for salvage certificates of title;  
22 receive certificates of title of a wrecked or salvage vehicle;  
23 and accept applications and issue temporary permits for  
24 vehicles that are unregistered or have delinquent registration.

25 The bill increases the following fees from \$20 to \$30:  
26 applications for initial registration and issuance of a  
27 certificate of title for a vehicle, applications for initial  
28 registration and issuance of a certificate of title for a  
29 commercial vehicle, applications for initial registration  
30 of a vehicle failing to meet the equipment requirements of  
31 Code chapter 321, applications for a replacement copy of an  
32 original certificate of title, applications for a new initial  
33 registration and a new title upon transfer, applications for  
34 initial registration and issuance of a certificate of title for  
35 a vehicle transferred by operation of law, and applications for

1 certificate of title to a nonresident purchaser.

2 The bill increases the following fees from \$10 to \$20:  
3 applications by a manufacturer for a certificate of title  
4 pursuant to Code section 322G.12, applications to perfect  
5 a security interest in a vehicle by delivery to a county  
6 treasurer, and applications for the issuance of a salvage  
7 certificate of title.

8 The bill increases the fee for applications for certificates  
9 of title by a dealer for a foreign registered vehicle from \$5  
10 to \$15.

11 Pursuant to current law, the bill requires an application  
12 for renewal of registration for a vehicle to be submitted to  
13 the county treasurer of the county of the owner's residence,  
14 or if a nonresident or a firm, association, or corporation  
15 with vehicles in multiple counties, to the county treasurer of  
16 the county where the primary users of the vehicle are located,  
17 or if a lessor of the vehicle, to the county treasurer of the  
18 county of the lessee's residence. However, the bill does not  
19 change the requirement under Code section 321.166 that every  
20 registration plate issued by a county treasurer must display  
21 the name of the county where the plate is issued. Under the  
22 bill, a person may register a vehicle other than by renewal in  
23 any county.

24 The bill amends Code section 321.20(2) by striking the  
25 current date by which the department of transportation (DOT)  
26 is required to develop and implement a program to allow for  
27 electronic applications, titling, initial registrations, and  
28 funds transfers for vehicles subject to registration.

29 Current law provides that, in addition to the annual  
30 registration fee, a fee for new registration is imposed  
31 in the amount of 5 percent of the purchase price for each  
32 vehicle subject to registration. The bill increases the fee  
33 by providing that the fee for new registration is \$10 plus  
34 5 percent of the purchase price of each vehicle subject to  
35 registration. Furthermore, the bill increases the fee for



1 new registration of leased vehicles by imposing a \$10 fee in  
2 addition to 5 percent of the leased price.

3 Lastly, the bill changes the amounts of certain fees a county  
4 treasurer may retain for deposit in the county general fund.  
5 The bill provides the treasurer may retain \$12.50 from each  
6 fee collected for certificates of title, \$16 from each fee  
7 collected for perfection of security interests, and \$11 from  
8 each fee for new registration. Article VII, section 8, of the  
9 Iowa Constitution requires a county to use the amount retained  
10 from fees for new registration for purposes of administering  
11 motor vehicle registration fees.

12 The bill makes conforming changes to Code sections 321.25,  
13 321.26, 321.29, and 321.126.