

Definitions

Custom Vehicle. A motor vehicle other than a motorcycle that:

- (a) (i) Was manufactured with a model year after 1948 and that is at least 25 years old; or
- (ii) Was built to resemble a vehicle manufactured after 1948 and at least 25 years before the current calendar year, including a kit vehicle intended to resemble a vehicle manufactured after 1948 and that is at least 25 years old; and
- (b) Has been altered from the manufacturer's original design or has a body constructed from nonoriginal materials.

Kit Vehicle. A motor vehicle assembled from a manufactured kit either as:

- (a) a complete kit, consisting of a prefabricated body and chassis, to construct a new motor vehicle; or
- (b) a kit with a prefabricated body to be mounted to an existing motor vehicle chassis and drivetrain, commonly referred to as a donor vehicle.

Motor Vehicle Owned and Operated Solely as a Collector's Item. A motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer that is more than 30 years old and that is used solely as a collector's item and is not used for general transportation purposes.

Not Used For General Transportation Purposes. The operation of a motor vehicle, registered as a collector's item, a custom vehicle, a street rod, or a custom-built motorcycle to or from a car or motorcycle club activity or event or an exhibit, show, cruise night, or parade, or other occasional transportation activity. The term does not include operation of a motor vehicle for routine or ordinary household maintenance, employment, education, or other similar purposes.

Specially Constructed Vehicle. A motor vehicle, including a motorcycle, that:

- (a) (i) was not originally constructed under a distinctive make, model, or type by a generally recognized manufacturer of motor vehicles;
- (ii) has been structurally modified so that it does not have the same appearance as similar vehicles from a generally recognized manufacturer of motor vehicles;
- (iii) has been constructed or assembled entirely from custom-built parts and materials not obtained from other vehicles;
- (iv) has been constructed or assembled by using major component parts from one or more manufactured vehicles and that cannot be identified as a specific make or model; or
- (v) has been constructed by the use of a kit that cannot be visually identified as a specific make or model.
- (b) The term does not include a motor vehicle that has been repaired or restored to its original design by replacing parts.

Street Rod. A motor vehicle, other than a motorcycle, that:

- (a) Was manufactured prior to 1949 or was built to resemble a vehicle manufactured before 1949, including a kit vehicle intended to resemble a vehicle manufactured before 1949; and
- (b) Has been altered from the manufacturer's original design or has a body constructed from nonoriginal materials.

Titling, Registration & Fees

From Montana Motor Vehicle Division:

From Montana Code:

TITLE 61 MOTOR VEHICLES
CHAPTER 3 CERTIFICATES OF TITLE, REGISTRATION, AND TAXATION OF MOTOR VEHICLES
PART 2 CERTIFICATES OF TITLE

Mont. Code Anno., § 61-3-213 (2016)

61-3-213 Certificate of title -- **custom vehicle, street rod, kit vehicle, or specially** constructed **vehicle**.

(1) When a person applies for a certificate of title for a **custom vehicle or street rod** and a certificate of title is issued or an electronic record of title is created pursuant to this chapter, the certificate of title or electronic record of title must provide:

(a) the model year and year of manufacture of the body of the **vehicle that the custom vehicle or street rod** resembles as the model year and year of manufacture for the **custom vehicle or street rod**;

(b) a **vehicle** description of the **custom vehicle or street rod if the vehicle** is a **custom vehicle** built to resemble a vehicle manufactured after 1948 and at least 25 years before the current calendar year or a **street rod** built to resemble a vehicle manufactured before 1949; and

(c) if there is no manufacturer's certificate of origin for the **custom vehicle or street rod**, the vehicle identification number from the chassis or frame of the **custom vehicle or street rod** or a state-assigned vehicle identification number.

(2) When a person applies for a certificate of title for a **kit vehicle**, excluding a **kit vehicle** that qualifies as a **custom vehicle or street rod**, and a certificate of title is issued or an electronic record of title is created pursuant to this chapter, the certificate of title or electronic record of title must list:

(a) the model year and year of manufacture as contained on the manufacturer's certificate of origin for the **kit vehicle** or, if a manufacturer's certificate of origin does not exist, the calendar year in which application for title was made;

(b) a **vehicle** description of the **kit vehicle**; and

(c) in the absence of a manufacturer's certificate of origin for the **kit vehicle, the vehicle** identification number from the chassis or frame of the donor vehicle or a state-assigned vehicle identification number.

(3) When a person applies for a certificate of title for a **specially** constructed **vehicle** and a certificate of title is issued or an electronic record of title is created pursuant to this chapter, the certificate of title or electronic record of title must list:

(a) the model year and year of manufacture as the calendar year in which application for title was made;

(b) a vehicle description, as determined by the department, of the **assembled or custom-built vehicle**; and

(c) the vehicle identification number, if any, from the chassis or frame of the vehicle or a state-assigned vehicle identification number.

(4) Prior to assignment of a state-assigned vehicle identification number or to confirm a vehicle identification number from the chassis or frame of a **custom vehicle, street rod, or specially** constructed **vehicle**, the department may require a vehicle inspection.

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PART 3 REGISTRATION

Mont. Code Anno., § 61-3-301 (2016)

61-3-301 Registration -- license plate required -- display.

(1)

- **(a)** Except as provided in [61-4-120](#), [61-4-129](#), and subsection (1)(b) of this section, a person may not operate a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, or travel trailer upon the public highways of Montana unless the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, or travel trailer is properly registered and has the proper license plates conspicuously displayed on the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, or travel trailer. A license plate must be securely fastened to prevent it from swinging and may not be obstructed from plain view.
- **(b)** A motorcycle, quadricycle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, or travel trailer must have a single license plate displayed on the rear of the vehicle. A custom vehicle or street rod registered under [61-3-320\(1\)\(b\)](#) or (1)(c)(iii) may display a single license plate firmly attached to the rear exterior of the custom vehicle or street rod. All other motor vehicles must have one license plate displayed on the front and one license plate displayed on the rear of the motor vehicle.
- **(c)** A person may not display on a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, or travel trailer at the same time a number assigned to it under any motor vehicle law except as provided in this chapter.
- **(d)** A low-speed electric vehicle or a golf cart operated by a person with a low-speed restricted driver's license must have special license plates, as provided in [61-3-332\(9\)](#), displayed on the front and rear of the vehicle.

(2) A person may not purchase or display on a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, or travel trailer a license plate bearing the number assigned to any county, as provided in [61-3-332](#), other than the county where the vehicle is domiciled or the county where the trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, or travel trailer is domiciled at the time of application for registration.

(3) It is unlawful to:

- **(a)** display license plates issued to one motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, or travel trailer on any other motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, or travel trailer unless legally transferred as provided by statute; or
- **(b)** repaint old license plates to resemble current license plates.

(4) For the purposes of this section, "conspicuously displayed" means that the required license plates are obviously visible and firmly attached to:

- **(a)** the front bumper and the rear bumper of a motor vehicle equipped with front and rear bumpers, except for a custom vehicle or street rod as provided in subsection (1)(b); or
- **(b)** a clearly visible location on the rear of a trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, or travel trailer.

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PART 3 REGISTRATION

Mont. Code Anno., § 61-3-320 (2016)

61-3-320 Registration -- **custom vehicle, street rod**, originally equipped older **vehicle, kit vehicle, or specially** constructed **vehicle**.

(1) (a) A **custom vehicle or street rod**:

(i) that is more than 30 years old may be registered under [61-3-411](#) as a collector's item; or

(ii) may be registered, depending on the vehicle type, as a motor home, a bus, a truck having a manufacturer's rated capacity of more than 1 ton, a truck tractor, or a light vehicle upon payment of the registration fee required in [61-3-321](#), the applicable fee or fee in lieu of tax provided for in [61-3-529](#) or [61-3-562](#), and, if applicable, any local option tax or fee under [61-3-537](#) or [61-3-570](#).

(b) The owner of a **custom vehicle or street rod** that is originally registered under subsection (1)(a) or that was registered prior to January 1, 2006, may be authorized to operate the **custom vehicle or street rod** while displaying only one license plate on the rear exterior of the **vehicle** if the owner certifies that the **custom vehicle or street rod** is not used for general transportation purposes and pays an additional \$ 10 fee, to be deposited in the state general fund.

(c) (i) Upon original registration of a **custom vehicle or street rod** under subsection (1)(a)(i), either a set of **pioneer or vintage** license **plates**, as described in [61-3-411\(2\)](#), or a set of original Montana license plates, as allowed under [61-3-412\(1\)](#), must be assigned and issued to the **custom vehicle or street rod**.

(ii) Upon original registration of a **custom vehicle or street rod** under subsection (1)(a)(ii) and unless the owner has applied for personalized license plates, special license plates for military personnel, veterans, or spouses, collegiate **plates**, or generic **specialty** license **plates** or has met the requirements of subsection (1)(b), a set of standard license plates must be assigned to the vehicle under [61-3-331](#).

(iii) Upon original registration of a **custom vehicle or street rod** under subsection (1)(a)(ii) and if the owner of a **custom vehicle or street rod** has met the requirements of subsection (1)(b), a single license plate, including a personalized standard license plate, special license plate for military personnel, veterans, or spouses, collegiate **plate**, or generic **specialty** license **plate**, if otherwise available to the vehicle owner or vehicle type, may be issued for the **custom vehicle or street rod**.

(d) The owner of an originally equipped motor vehicle, other than a motorcycle, that is more than 30 years old and that is not registered as a collector's item under [61-3-411](#) may be authorized to operate the motor vehicle while displaying only one license plate on the rear exterior of the **vehicle**, as if it were a **custom vehicle or street rod**, if the owner:

(i) certifies that the originally equipped motor vehicle is not used for general transportation purposes;

(ii) pays any fees required under [61-3-321](#), [61-3-529](#), or [61-3-562](#) and, if applicable, a local option tax or fee under [61-3-537](#) or [61-3-570](#), plus an additional \$ 10 fee, to be deposited in the state general fund; and

(iii) is otherwise eligible, based on the owner's status and the vehicle type, for one of the single license plate options available to an owner of a **custom vehicle or street rod** under this subsection (1).

(2) (a) The owner of a **kit vehicle** shall pay the registration fees provided for in [61-3-321](#) and, if applicable, any local option tax or fee under [61-3-537](#) or [61-3-570](#).

(b) Upon original registration of a **kit vehicle** and unless the owner has applied for special license plates, collegiate **plates**, or generic **specialty** license **plates**, standard license plates must be assigned and issued to the **kit vehicle** under [61-3-331](#).

(3) (a) Depending on whether the **specialty** constructed **vehicle** is a motor home, bus, truck having a manufacturer's rated capacity of more than 1 ton, truck tractor, or light **vehicle**, the owner of a **specialty** constructed **vehicle** shall pay the registration fees provided for in [61-3-321](#), any registration fee or fee in lieu of tax provided for in [61-3-529](#), and, if applicable, any local option tax or fee under [61-3-537](#) or [61-3-570](#).

(b) Upon original registration of a **specialty** constructed **vehicle** and unless the owner has applied for special license plates, collegiate **plates**, or generic **specialty** license **plates**, standard license plates must be assigned and issued to the **specialty** constructed **vehicle** under [61-3-331](#).

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PART 4 SPECIAL REGISTRATION

Mont. Code Anno., § 61-3-411 (2016)

61-3-411 Registration of motor vehicle owned and operated solely as collector's item.

(1) An owner of a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer that is more than 30 years old and that is used solely as a collector's item and is not used for general transportation purposes may file with the department an application for the registration of the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer. The application must be sworn to before an officer authorized to administer oaths. The application must state:

- (a) the name and address of the owner;
- (b) the name and address of the person from whom the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer was purchased;
- (c) the make, the gross weight, the year and number of the model, and the manufacturer's identification number and serial number of the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer; and
- (d) that the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer is owned and operated solely as a collector's item and not for general transportation purposes.

(2) Upon receipt of the application for registration and payment of the registration fees, including fees in lieu of tax, the department shall file the application and register the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer in the manner specified in [61-3-303](#) and, unless the applicant chooses to exercise the option allowed in [61-3-412](#), shall deliver to the applicant:

- (a) for a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer manufactured in 1933 or earlier, two license **plates** bearing the inscription "**Pioneer**--Montana" and the registration number; or
- (b) for a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer manufactured in 1934 or later and more than 30 years old, two license **plates** bearing the inscription "**Vintage**--Montana" and the registration number.

(3) The year of issuance may not be shown on the plates.

(4) Annual renewal of the registration of a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer registered under this section is not required, and the registration is valid as long as the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer is in existence and owned by the initial registrant.

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Mont. Code Anno., § 61-3-412 (2016)

61-3-412 Display of original Montana license plates on **collector's item** and general transportation **collector's item** motor **vehicles** -- definition -- validation.

(1) As used in [61-3-413](#) and this section, "original Montana license plate" means a license plate issued according to the provisions of [61-3-331](#); section 53-116, R.C.M. 1947; section 1759.1, R.C.M. 1935; or section 1759, R.C.M. 1921; whichever section was effective during the year of the manufacture of the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer on which the license plate is authorized to be displayed.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of [61-3-332](#), the department shall authorize the owner of a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer registered as provided in [61-3-411](#) or [61-3-413](#) to display original Montana license plates, with validation as required in [61-3-413](#) or subsection (3) of this section, after:

(a) payment of the fee required in subsection (5);

(b) inspection by a highway patrol officer of the original Montana license plate to be displayed on the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer and, upon payment of a \$ 5 fee, receipt of the highway patrol officer's certification that the officer has determined that:

(i) the license plate is legible and meets the requirements of subsection (1); and

(ii) in the case of a license plate intended for use on a general transportation collector's item, the license plate is visible at night;

(c) receipt of an application by the owner of the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer as provided for in [61-3-411](#) or [61-3-413](#); and

(d) in the case of a general transportation collector's item application, certification from the department that a duplicate license plate number does not exist among currently issued license plates.

(3) If the owner of a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer meets the requirements of subsection (2), the department shall:

(a) register the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer as prescribed in [61-3-303](#); and

(b) issue a validating decal inscribed with:

(i) a unique number; and

(ii) the letter:

(A) "P" to designate motor vehicles, trailers, semitrailers, or pole trailers described in [61-3-411\(2\)\(a\)](#); or

(B) "V" to designate motor vehicles, trailers, semitrailers, or pole trailers described in [61-3-411\(2\)\(b\)](#).

(4) The owner of the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer shall permanently affix the validating decal to the windshield of the **collector's item** motor **vehicle**, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer or, if a windshield does not exist, to another prominent and visible position on the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer.

(5) The owner of the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer shall pay to the department with the application required under this section a one-time special **collector's item** motor **vehicle**, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer license fee of \$ 20.

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PART 4 SPECIAL REGISTRATION

Mont. Code Anno., § 61-3-413 (2016)

61-3-413 Registration of motor **vehicle** as general transportation **collector's** item -- definition -- permanent registration required.

- (1) For the purposes of [61-3-412](#) and this section, a "general transportation **collector's** item" is a motor **vehicle**, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer that is 25 years old or older and that is used for general transportation purposes.
- (2) An owner of a general transportation collector's item who wishes to display original Montana license plates on the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer shall file with the department an application for the registration of the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer. The application must state:
 - (a) the name and address of the owner;
 - (b) the year and number of the license plate the applicant wishes to use; and
 - (c) the make, the gross weight, the year and number of the model, and the manufacturer's identification number and serial number of the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer.
- (3) Upon receipt of an application for registration of a general transportation collector's item, the department shall compare the number of the license plate that the applicant intends to use with the license plate numbers assigned to currently registered motor vehicles, trailers, semitrailers, or pole trailers. The department may reject an application if the number the applicant intends to use matches a number that is assigned to a currently registered motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer. If the department approves the application, the department shall file the application and register the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer in the manner specified in [61-3-101](#).
- (4) Once an application is approved, appropriate fees are paid, and the requirements provided in [61-3-412\(2\)](#) are met, an owner of a general transportation collector's item shall permanently register the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer as provided in [61-3-562](#) and shall display on the motor vehicle's, trailer's, semitrailer's, or pole trailer's license plate a decal indicating that the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer has been permanently registered.

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PART 3 REGISTRATION

Mont. Code Anno., § 61-3-321 (2016)

- 61-3-321 Registration fees of vehicles and vessels -- certain vehicles exempt from registration fees -- disposition of fees.
 - (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section, registration fees must be paid upon registration or, if applicable, renewal of registration of motor vehicles, snowmobiles, watercraft, trailers, semitrailers, and pole trailers as provided in subsections (2) through (20).
 - (2) Unless a light vehicle is permanently registered under [61-3-562](#), the annual registration fee for light vehicles, trucks and buses under 1 ton, and logging trucks less than 1 ton is as follows:
 - (a) if the vehicle is 4 or less years old, \$217;
 - (b) if the vehicle is 5 through 10 years old, \$87; and
 - (c) if the vehicle is 11 or more years old, \$28.
 - (3) Except as provided in subsection (15), the one-time registration fee based on the declared weight of a trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer is as follows:
 - (a) if the declared weight is less than 6,000 pounds, \$61.25; or
 - (b) if the declared weight is 6,000 pounds or more, \$148.25.
 - (4) Except as provided in subsection (15), the one-time registration fee for motor vehicles owned and operated solely as collector's items pursuant to [61-3-411](#), based on the weight of the vehicle, is as follows:
 - (a) 2,850 pounds and over, \$10; and
 - (b) under 2,850 pounds, \$5.
 - (5) Except as provided in subsection (15), the one-time registration fee for off-highway vehicles other than a quadricycle or motorcycle is \$61.25.
 - (6) The annual registration fee for heavy trucks, buses, and logging trucks in excess of 1 ton is \$22.75.
 - (7)
 - (a) The annual registration fee for a motor home, based on the age of the motor home, is as follows:
 - (i) less than 2 years old, \$282.50;
 - (ii) 2 years old and less than 5 years old, \$224.25;
 - (iii) 5 years old and less than 8 years old, \$132.50; and
 - (iv) 8 years old and older, \$97.50.
 - (b) The owner of a motor home that is 11 years old or older and that is subject to the registration fee under this section may permanently register the motor home upon payment of:
 - (i) a one-time registration fee of \$237.50;
 - (ii) unless a new set of license plates is being issued, an insurance verification fee of \$5, which must be deposited in the account established under [61-6-158](#);
 - (iii) if applicable, five times the renewal fees for personalized license plates under [61-3-406](#); and
 - (iv) if applicable, the donation fee for a generic specialty license plate under [61-3-480](#) or a collegiate license plate under [61-3-465](#).
 - (8)
 - (a) Except as provided in subsection (15), the one-time registration fee for motorcycles and quadricycles registered for use on public highways is \$53.25, and the one-time registration fee for motorcycles and quadricycles registered for both off-road use and for use on the public highways is \$114.50.
 - (b) An additional fee of \$16 must be collected for the registration of each motorcycle or quadricycle as a safety fee, which must be deposited in the state motorcycle safety account provided for in [20-25-1002](#).
 - (9) Except as provided in subsection (15), the one-time registration fee for travel trailers, based on the length of the travel trailer, is as follows:
 - (a) under 16 feet in length, \$72; and
 - (b) 16 feet in length or longer, \$152.

- **(10)** Except as provided in subsection (15), the one-time registration fee for a motorboat, sailboat, personal watercraft, or motorized pontoon required to be numbered under [23-2-512](#) is as follows:
 - **(a)** for a personal watercraft or a motorboat, sailboat, or motorized pontoon less than 16 feet in length, \$65.50;
 - **(b)** for a motorboat, sailboat, or motorized pontoon at least 16 feet in length but less than 19 feet in length, \$125.50; and
 - **(c)** for a motorboat, sailboat, or motorized pontoon 19 feet in length or longer, \$295.50.
- **(11)**
 - **(a)** Except as provided in subsections (11)(b) and (15), the one-time registration fee for a snowmobile is \$60.50.
 - **(b)**
 - **(i)** A snowmobile that is licensed by a Montana business and is owned exclusively for the purpose of daily rental to customers is assessed:
 - **(A)** a fee of \$40.50 in the first year of registration; and
 - **(B)** if the business reregisters the snowmobile for a second year, a fee of \$20.
 - **(ii)** If the business reregisters the snowmobile for a third year, the snowmobile must be permanently registered and the business is assessed the registration fee imposed in subsection (11)(a).
- **(12)**
 - **(a)** The one-time registration fee for a low-speed electric vehicle is \$25.
 - **(b)** The one-time registration fee for a golf cart that is owned by a person who has or is applying for a low-speed restricted driver's license is \$25.
 - **(c)** The one-time registration fee for golf carts authorized to operate on certain public streets and highways pursuant to [61-8-391](#) is \$25. Upon receipt of the fee, the department shall issue the owner a decal, which must be displayed visibly on the golf cart.
- **(13)**
 - **(a)** Except as provided in subsection (13)(b), a fee of \$10 must be collected when a new set of standard license plates, a new single standard license plate, or a replacement set of special license plates required under [61-3-332](#) is issued. The \$10 fee imposed under this subsection does not apply when previously issued license plates are transferred under [61-3-335](#). All registration fees imposed under this section must be paid if the vehicle to which the plates are transferred is not currently registered.
 - **(b)** An additional fee of \$15 must be collected if a vehicle owner elects to keep the same license plate number from license plates issued before January 1, 2010, when replacement of those plates is required under [61-3-332\(3\)](#).
 - **(c)** The fees imposed in this subsection (13) must be deposited in the account established under [61-6-158](#), except that \$2 of the fee imposed in subsection (13)(a) must be deposited in the state general fund.
- **(14)** The provisions of this part with respect to the payment of registration fees do not apply to and are not binding upon motor vehicles, trailers, semitrailers, snowmobiles, watercraft, or tractors owned or controlled by the United States of America or any state, county, city, or special district, as defined in [18-8-202](#), or to a vehicle or vessel that meets the description of property exempt from taxation under [15-6-201\(1\)\(a\)](#), (1)(d), (1)(e), (1)(g), (1)(h), (1)(i), (1)(k), (1)(l), (1)(n), or (1)(o), [15-6-203](#), or [15-6-215](#), except as provided in [61-3-520](#).
- **(15)** Whenever ownership of a trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, off-highway vehicle, motorcycle, quadricycle, travel trailer, motor home, motorboat, sailboat, personal watercraft, motorized pontoon, snowmobile, motor vehicle owned and operated solely as a collector's item pursuant to [61-3-411](#), or low-speed electric vehicle is transferred, the new owner shall title and register the vehicle or vessel as required by this chapter and pay the fees imposed under this section.
- **(16)** A person eligible for a waiver under [61-3-460](#) is exempt from the fees required under this section.
- **(17)** Except as otherwise provided in this section, revenue collected under this section must be deposited in the state general fund.
- **(18)** The fees imposed by subsections (2) through (12) are not required to be paid by a dealer for the enumerated vehicles or vessels that constitute inventory of the dealership.
- **(19)**

- **(a)** Unless a person exercises the option in either subsection (19)(b) or (19)(c), an additional fee of \$6 must be collected for each light vehicle registered under this part. This fee must be accounted for and transmitted separately from the registration fee. The fee must be deposited in an account in the state special revenue fund to be used for state parks, for fishing access sites, and for the operation of state-owned facilities. Of the \$6 fee, the department of fish, wildlife, and parks shall use \$5.37 for state parks, 25 cents for fishing access sites, and 38 cents for the operation of state-owned facilities at Virginia City and Nevada City.
- **(b)** A person who registers a light vehicle may, at the time of annual registration, certify that the person does not intend to use the vehicle to visit state parks and fishing access sites and may make a written election not to pay the additional \$6 fee provided for in subsection (19)(a). If a written election is made, the fee may not be collected.
- **(c)**
 - **(i)** A person who registers one or more light vehicles may, at the time of annual registration, certify that the person does not intend to use any of the vehicles to visit state parks and fishing access sites and may make a written election not to pay the additional \$6 fee provided for in subsection (19)(a). If a written election is made, the fee may not be collected at any subsequent annual registration unless the person makes the written election to pay the additional fee on one or more of the light vehicles.
 - **(ii)** The written election not to pay the additional fee on a light vehicle expires if the vehicle is registered to a different person.
- **(20)** For each light vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, heavy truck, motor home, motorcycle, quadricycle, and travel trailer subject to a registration fee under this section, an additional fee of \$5 must be collected and forwarded to the state for deposit in the account established in [44-1-504](#).
- **(21)** This section does not apply to a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer that is governed by [61-3-721](#).

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PART 5 TAXES, FEES, AND FEES IN LIEU OF TAXES

Mont. Code Anno., § 61-3-503 (2016)

61-3-503 Assessment — definition.

(1)

(a) Except as provided in 61-3-520, light vehicles subject to a local option motor vehicle tax under 61-3-537 must be assessed the tax as of the first day of the registration period, using the depreciated value of the manufacturer's suggested retail price as determined in subsection (2).

(b) If the depreciated value is less than \$500, the department shall value the motor vehicle at \$500.

(2)

(a) Except as provided in subsections (2)(c) and (2)(d), the depreciated value for the taxation of light vehicles is computed by multiplying the manufacturer's suggested retail price by a percentage multiplier based on the type and age of the light vehicle determined from the following table:

Age of Vehicle (in years)	Type of Vehicle			
	Automobile	Truck	Van	Sport Utility
-1	100%	100%	100%	100%
0	90	96	93	98
1	80	91	86	94
2	69	86	78	90
3	58	80	69	84
4	49	73	60	76
5	41	66	52	67
6	33	57	45	57
7	26	49	38	48
8	21	43	32	39
9	17	37	27	33
10	14	31	22	29
11	12	26	18	25
12	10	22	15	22
13	09	18	13	21
14	09	15	11	19
15	09	13	09	17
16	09	12	09	15

(b) The age for the light vehicle is determined under 61-3-501.

(c) If the value of the light vehicle determined under subsection (2)(a) is \$500 or less, the value of the light vehicle is \$500 and the value must remain at that amount as long as the light vehicle is registered.

(d) The depreciated value of a light vehicle that is 17 years old or older is computed by depreciating the value obtained for the vehicle at 16 years old, as determined under subsection (2)(a), by 10% a year until a minimum value of \$500 is attained. The value must remain at that amount as long as the light vehicle is registered.

(3)

(a) For the purposes of this section, "manufacturer's suggested retail price" means the price suggested by the manufacturer for each given type, style, or model of light vehicle produced and first made available for retail sale by the manufacturer.

(b) The manufacturer's suggested retail price is based on standard equipment of a light vehicle and does not contain price additions or deductions for optional accessories.

(c) When a manufacturer's suggested retail price is unavailable for a motor vehicle, the department shall determine an alternative valuation for the motor vehicle.

TITLE 61 MOTOR VEHICLES
CHAPTER 3 CERTIFICATES OF TITLE, REGISTRATION, AND TAXATION OF MOTOR VEHICLES
PART 5 TAXES, FEES, AND FEES IN LIEU OF TAXES

Mont. Code Anno., § 61-3-562 (2016)

61-3-562 Permanent registration -- transfer of light vehicle ownership -- rules.

(1)

(a) The owner of a light vehicle 11 years old or older subject to the registration fee, as provided in 61-3-321(2), may permanently register the light vehicle upon payment of a \$87.50 registration fee, the applicable registration and license fees under 61-3-412, if applicable, the administrative fee and the annual one-time-only donation fee for a generic specialty license plate under 61-3-480 or collegiate license plates under 61-3-465, and an amount equal to five times the local option motor vehicle tax or flat fee on vehicles under 61-3-537 and, as applicable, either:

(i)

(A) the original fee and four times the renewal fee for personalized plates; or

(B) five times the renewal fees for personalized plates; or

(ii) if a new set of license plates is not being issued, an insurance verification fee of \$5, which must be deposited in the account established under 61-6-158.

(b) The following series of license plates may not be used for purposes of permanent registration of a light vehicle:

(i) Montana national guard license plates issued under 61-3-458(2)(b);

(ii) reserve armed forces license plates issued under 61-3-458(2)(c); and

(iii) amateur radio operator license plates issued under 61-3-422.

(2) In addition to the fees described in subsection (1), an owner of a truck with a manufacturer's rated capacity of 1 ton or less that is permanently registered shall pay five times the applicable fees imposed under 61-10-201.

(3) The owner of a motor vehicle that is permanently registered under this section is not subject to additional registration fees or to other motor vehicle registration fees described in this section for as long as the owner owns the vehicle.

(4) The county treasurer shall once each month remit to the state the amounts collected under this section, other than the local option motor vehicle tax or flat fee, for the purposes of 61-3-321(2) and 61-10-201. The county treasurer shall retain the local option motor vehicle tax or flat fee.

(5)

(a) The permanent registration of a light vehicle allowed by this section may not be transferred to a new owner. If the light vehicle is transferred to a new owner, the department shall cancel the light vehicle's permanent registration.

(b) Upon transfer of a light vehicle registered under this section to a new owner, the new owner shall apply for a certificate of title under 61-3-201 and 61-3-216 and register the light vehicle under 61-3-303.

TITLE 61 MOTOR VEHICLES
CHAPTER 3 CERTIFICATES OF TITLE, REGISTRATION, AND TAXATION OF MOTOR VEHICLES
PART 3 REGISTRATION

Mont. Code Anno., § 61-3-321 (2016)

61-3-321 Registration fees of vehicles and vessels -- certain vehicles exempt from registration fees -- disposition of fees.

(1) Except as otherwise provided in this section, registration fees must be paid upon registration or, if applicable, renewal of registration of motor vehicles, snowmobiles, watercraft, trailers, semitrailers, and pole trailers as provided in subsections (2) through (19):

(2) Unless a light vehicle is permanently registered under [61-3-562](#), the annual registration fee for light vehicles, trucks and buses under 1 ton, and logging trucks less than 1 ton is as follows:

- (a) if the vehicle is 4 or less years old, \$ 217;
- (b) if the vehicle is 5 through 10 years old, \$ 87; and
- (c) if the vehicle is 11 or more years old, \$ 28.

(3) Except as provided in subsection (14), the one-time registration fee based on the declared weight of a trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer is as follows:

- (a) if the declared weight is less than 6,000 pounds, \$ 61.25; or
- (b) if the declared weight is 6,000 pounds or more, \$ 148.25.

(4) Except as provided in subsection (14), the one-time registration fee for motor **vehicles** owned and operated solely as **collector's** items pursuant to [61-3-411](#), based on the weight of the vehicle, is as follows:

- (a) 2,850 pounds and over, \$ 10; and
- (b) under 2,850 pounds, \$ 5.

(5) Except as provided in subsection (14), the one-time registration fee for off-highway vehicles other than a quadricycle or motorcycle is \$ 61.25.

(6) The annual registration fee for heavy trucks, buses, and logging trucks in excess of 1 ton is \$ 22.75.

(7) (a) The annual registration fee for a motor home, based on the age of the motor home, is as follows:

- (i) less than 2 years old, \$ 282.50;
- (ii) 2 years old and less than 5 years old, \$ 224.25;
- (iii) 5 years old and less than 8 years old, \$ 132.50; and
- (iv) 8 years old and older, \$ 97.50.

(b) The owner of a motor home that is 11 years old or older and that is subject to the registration fee under this section may permanently register the motor home upon payment of:

- (i) a one-time registration fee of \$ 237.50;
- (ii) unless a new set of license plates is being issued, an insurance verification fee of \$ 5, which must be deposited in the account established under [61-6-158](#); and
- (iii) if applicable, five times the renewal fees for personalized license plates under [61-3-406](#).

(8) (a) Except as provided in subsection (14), the one-time registration fee for motorcycles and quadricycles registered for use on public highways is \$ 53.25, and the one-time registration fee for

motorcycles and quadricycles registered for both off-road use and for use on the public highways is \$ 114.50.

(b) An additional fee of \$ 16 must be collected for the registration of each motorcycle or quadricycle as a safety fee, which must be deposited in the state motorcycle safety account provided for in [20-25-1002](#).

(9) Except as provided in subsection (14), the one-time registration fee for travel trailers, based on the length of the travel trailer, is as follows:

(a) under 16 feet in length, \$ 72; and

(b) 16 feet in length or longer, \$ 152.

(10) Except as provided in subsection (14), the one-time registration fee for a motorboat, sailboat, personal watercraft, or motorized pontoon required to be numbered under [23-2-512](#) is as follows:

(a) for a personal watercraft or a motorboat, sailboat, or motorized pontoon less than 16 feet in length, \$ 65.50;

(b) for a motorboat, sailboat, or motorized pontoon at least 16 feet in length but less than 19 feet in length, \$ 125.50; and

(c) for a motorboat, sailboat, or motorized pontoon 19 feet in length or longer, \$ 295.50.

(11) (a) Except as provided in subsections (11)(b) and (14), the one-time registration fee for a snowmobile is \$ 60.50.

(b) (i) A snowmobile that is licensed by a Montana business and is owned exclusively for the purpose of daily rental to customers is assessed:

(A) a fee of \$ 40.50 in the first year of registration; and

(B) if the business reregisters the snowmobile for a second year, a fee of \$ 20.

(ii) If the business reregisters the snowmobile for a third year, the snowmobile must be permanently registered and the business is assessed the registration fee imposed in subsection (11)(a).

(12) (a) Except as provided in subsection (12)(b), a fee of \$ 10 must be collected when a new set of standard license plates, a new single standard license plate, or a replacement set of special license plates required under [61-3-332](#) is issued. The \$ 10 fee imposed under this subsection does not apply when previously issued license plates are transferred under [61-3-335](#). All registration fees imposed under this section must be paid if the vehicle to which the plates are transferred is not currently registered.

(b) Until January 1, 2015, an additional fee of \$ 15 must be collected if a vehicle owner elects to keep the same license plate number from license plates issued on or after January 1, 2006, but before January 1, 2010, when replacement of those plates is required under [61-3-332\(3\)](#).

(c) The fees imposed in this subsection (12) must be deposited in the account established under [61-6-158](#), except that \$ 2 of the fee imposed in subsection (12)(a) must be deposited in the state general fund.

(13) The provisions of this part with respect to the payment of registration fees do not apply to and are not binding upon motor vehicles, trailers, semitrailers, snowmobiles, watercraft, or tractors owned or controlled by the United States of America or any state, county, city, or special district, as defined in [18-8-202](#), or to a vehicle or vessel that meets the description of property exempt from taxation under [15-6-201\(1\)\(a\)](#), (1)(c), (1)(d), (1)(e), (1)(f), (1)(g), (1)(i), (1)(j), (1)(l), or (1)(m), [15-6-203](#), or [15-6-215](#), except as provided in [61-3-520](#).

(14) Whenever ownership of a trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, off-highway vehicle, motorcycle, quadricycle, travel trailer, motor home, motorboat, sailboat, personal watercraft, motorized pontoon, snowmobile, or motor vehicle owned and operated solely as a collector's item pursuant to [61-3-411](#) is transferred, the new owner shall title and register the vehicle or vessel as required by this chapter and pay the fees imposed under this section.

(15) A person eligible for a waiver under [61-3-460](#) is exempt from the fees required under this section.

(16) Except as otherwise provided in this section, revenue collected under this section must be deposited in the state general fund.

(17) The fees imposed by subsections (2) through (11) are not required to be paid by a dealer for the enumerated vehicles or vessels that constitute inventory of the dealership.

(18) (a) Unless a person exercises the option in subsection (18)(b), an additional fee of \$ 4 must be collected for each light vehicle registered under this part. This fee must be accounted for and transmitted separately from the registration fee. The fee must be deposited in an account in the state special revenue fund to be used for state parks, for fishing access sites, and for the operation of state-owned facilities. Of the \$ 4 fee, the department of fish, wildlife, and parks shall use \$ 3.50 for state parks, 25 cents for fishing access sites, and 25 cents for the operation of state-owned facilities at Virginia City and Nevada City.

(b) A person who registers a light vehicle may, at the time of annual registration, certify that the person does not intend to use the vehicle to visit state parks and fishing access sites and may make a written election not to pay the additional \$ 4 fee provided for in subsection (18)(a). If a written election is made, the fee may not be collected.

(19) For each light vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, heavy truck, motor home, motorcycle, quadricycle, and travel trailer subject to a registration fee under this section, an additional fee of \$ 5 must be collected and forwarded to the state for deposit in the account established in [44-1-504](#).

(20) This section does not apply to a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer that is governed by [61-3-721](#).

Equipment Exemptions

From Montana Code:

TITLE 61 MOTOR VEHICLES
CHAPTER 9 VEHICLE EQUIPMENT
PART 2 LIGHTING EQUIPMENT

Mont. Code Anno., § 61-9-204 (2016)

61-9-204 Taillamps.

(1) Except as otherwise provided in this section, registration fees must be paid upon registration or, if applicable, renewal of registration of motor vehicles, snowmobiles, watercraft, trailers, semitrailers, and pole trailers as provided in subsections (2) through (20).

(2) Unless a light vehicle is permanently registered under 61-3-562, the annual registration fee for light vehicles, trucks and buses under 1 ton, and logging trucks less than 1 ton is as follows:

- (a) if the vehicle is 4 or less years old, \$217;
- (b) if the vehicle is 5 through 10 years old, \$87; and
- (c) if the vehicle is 11 or more years old, \$28.

(3) Except as provided in subsection (15), the one-time registration fee based on the declared weight of a trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer is as follows:

- (a) if the declared weight is less than 6,000 pounds, \$61.25; or
- (b) if the declared weight is 6,000 pounds or more, \$148.25.

(4) Except as provided in subsection (15), the one-time registration fee for motor vehicles owned and operated solely as collector's items pursuant to 61-3-411, based on the weight of the vehicle, is as follows:

- (a) 2,850 pounds and over, \$10; and
- (b) under 2,850 pounds, \$5.

(5) Except as provided in subsection (15), the one-time registration fee for off-highway vehicles other than a quadricycle or motorcycle is \$61.25.

(6) The annual registration fee for heavy trucks, buses, and logging trucks in excess of 1 ton is \$22.75.

(7) (a) The annual registration fee for a motor home, based on the age of the motor home, is as follows:

- (i) less than 2 years old, \$282.50;
- (ii) 2 years old and less than 5 years old, \$224.25;
- (iii) 5 years old and less than 8 years old, \$132.50; and
- (iv) 8 years old and older, \$97.50.

(b) The owner of a motor home that is 11 years old or older and that is subject to the registration fee under this section may permanently register the motor home upon payment of:

- (i) a one-time registration fee of \$237.50;
- (ii) unless a new set of license plates is being issued, an insurance verification fee of \$5, which must be deposited in the account established under 61-6-158;
- (iii) if applicable, five times the renewal fees for personalized license plates under 61-3-406; and
- (iv) if applicable, the donation fee for a generic specialty license plate under 61-3-480 or a collegiate license plate under 61-3-465.

(8) (a) Except as provided in subsection (15), the one-time registration fee for motorcycles and quadricycles registered for use on public highways is \$53.25, and the one-time registration fee for motorcycles and quadricycles registered for both off-road use and for use on the public highways is \$114.50.

(b) An additional fee of \$16 must be collected for the registration of each motorcycle or quadricycle as a safety fee, which must be deposited in the state motorcycle safety account provided for in 20-25-1002.

(9) Except as provided in subsection (15), the one-time registration fee for travel trailers, based on the length of the travel trailer, is as follows:

- (a) under 16 feet in length, \$72; and
- (b) 16 feet in length or longer, \$152.

(10) Except as provided in subsection (15), the one-time registration fee for a motorboat, sailboat, personal watercraft, or motorized pontoon required to be numbered under 23-2-512 is as follows:

(a) for a personal watercraft or a motorboat, sailboat, or motorized pontoon less than 16 feet in length, \$65.50;

(b) for a motorboat, sailboat, or motorized pontoon at least 16 feet in length but less than 19 feet in length, \$125.50; and

(c) for a motorboat, sailboat, or motorized pontoon 19 feet in length or longer, \$295.50.

(11)

(a) Except as provided in subsections (11)(b) and (15), the one-time registration fee for a snowmobile is \$60.50.

(b)

(i) A snowmobile that is licensed by a Montana business and is owned exclusively for the purpose of daily rental to customers is assessed:

(A) a fee of \$40.50 in the first year of registration; and

(B) if the business reregisters the snowmobile for a second year, a fee of \$20.

(ii) If the business reregisters the snowmobile for a third year, the snowmobile must be permanently registered and the business is assessed the registration fee imposed in subsection (11)(a).

(12)

(a) The one-time registration fee for a low-speed electric vehicle is \$25.

(b) The one-time registration fee for a golf cart that is owned by a person who has or is applying for a low-speed restricted driver's license is \$25.

(c) The one-time registration fee for golf carts authorized to operate on certain public streets and highways pursuant to 61-8-391 is \$25. Upon receipt of the fee, the department shall issue the owner a decal, which must be displayed visibly on the golf cart.

(13)

(a) Except as provided in subsection (13)(b), a fee of \$10 must be collected when a new set of standard license plates, a new single standard license plate, or a replacement set of special license plates required under 61-3-332 is issued. The \$10 fee imposed under this subsection does not apply when previously issued license plates are transferred under 61-3-335. All registration fees imposed under this section must be paid if the vehicle to which the plates are transferred is not currently registered.

(b) An additional fee of \$15 must be collected if a vehicle owner elects to keep the same license plate number from license plates issued before January 1, 2010, when replacement of those plates is required under 61-3-332(3).

(c) The fees imposed in this subsection (13) must be deposited in the account established under 61-6-158, except that \$2 of the fee imposed in subsection (13)(a) must be deposited in the state general fund.

(14) The provisions of this part with respect to the payment of registration fees do not apply to and are not binding upon motor vehicles, trailers, semitrailers, snowmobiles, watercraft, or tractors owned or controlled by the United States of America or any state, county, city, or special district, as defined in 18-8-202, or to a vehicle or vessel that meets the description of property exempt from taxation under 15-6-201(1)(a), (1)(d), (1)(e), (1)(g), (1)(h), (1)(i), (1)(k), (1)(l), (1)(n), or (1)(o), 15-6-203, or 15-6-215, except as provided in 61-3-520.

(15) Whenever ownership of a trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, off-highway vehicle, motorcycle, quadricycle, travel trailer, motor home, motorboat, sailboat, personal watercraft, motorized pontoon, snowmobile, motor vehicle owned and operated solely as a collector's item pursuant to 61-3-411, or low-speed electric vehicle is transferred, the new owner shall title and register the vehicle or vessel as required by this chapter and pay the fees imposed under this section.

(16) A person eligible for a waiver under 61-3-460 is exempt from the fees required under this section.

(17) Except as otherwise provided in this section, revenue collected under this section must be deposited in the state general fund.

(18) The fees imposed by subsections (2) through (12) are not required to be paid by a dealer for the enumerated vehicles or vessels that constitute inventory of the dealership.

(19)

(a) Unless a person exercises the option in either subsection (19)(b) or (19)(c), an additional fee of \$6 must be collected for each light vehicle registered under this part. This fee must be accounted for and transmitted separately from the registration fee. The fee must be deposited in an account in the state special revenue fund to be used for state parks, for fishing access sites, and for the operation of state-owned facilities. Of the \$6 fee, the department of fish, wildlife, and parks shall use \$5.37 for state parks, 25 cents for fishing access sites, and 38 cents for the operation of state-owned facilities at Virginia City and Nevada City.

(b) A person who registers a light vehicle may, at the time of annual registration, certify that the person does not intend to use the vehicle to visit state parks and fishing access sites and may make a written

election not to pay the additional \$6 fee provided for in subsection (19)(a). If a written election is made, the fee may not be collected.

(c)

(i) A person who registers one or more light vehicles may, at the time of annual registration, certify that the person does not intend to use any of the vehicles to visit state parks and fishing access sites and may make a written election not to pay the additional \$6 fee provided for in subsection (19)(a). If a written election is made, the fee may not be collected at any subsequent annual registration unless the person makes the written election to pay the additional fee on one or more of the light vehicles.

(ii) The written election not to pay the additional fee on a light vehicle expires if the vehicle is registered to a different person.

(20) For each light vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, heavy truck, motor home, motorcycle, quadricycle, and travel trailer subject to a registration fee under this section, an additional fee of \$5 must be collected and forwarded to the state for deposit in the account established in 44-1-504.

(21) This section does not apply to a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer that is governed by 61-3-721.

CHAPTER 9 VEHICLE EQUIPMENT
PART 2 LIGHTING EQUIPMENT

Mont. Code Anno., § 61-9-206 (2016)

61-9-206 Stop lamps -- when required.

(1) A person may not sell a new motor vehicle in this state or drive a vehicle on the highways unless it is equipped with at least two properly functioning stop lamps. A vehicle manufactured before January 1, 1956, and all motorcycles, quadricycles, and motor-driven cycles must be equipped with at least one properly functioning stop lamp.

(2) The stop lamp or lamps on the rear of a vehicle must display a red light that is actuated upon application of the service (foot) brake and, in a **vehicle** manufactured or **assembled** on or after January 1, 1964, must be visible from a distance of not less than 300 feet to the rear in normal sunlight. In a **vehicle** manufactured or **assembled** before January 1, 1964, the stop lamp or lamps must be visible from a distance of not less than 100 feet. The stop lamp may be incorporated with one or more other rear lamps.

(3) A stop lamp may not project a glaring light.

TITLE 61 MOTOR VEHICLES
CHAPTER 9 VEHICLE EQUIPMENT
PART 2 LIGHTING EQUIPMENT

Mont. Code Anno., § 61-9-218 (2016)

61-9-218 Signal lamps and signal devices -- when required.

(1) A motor vehicle or combination of vehicles may be equipped and when required under this chapter must be equipped with signal lamps showing to the front and rear for the purpose of indicating an intention to turn either to the right or left. The lamps showing to the front must be located on the same level and as widely spaced laterally as practicable. Except as provided in subsection (3), when in use, the lamps must display a white or amber light, or a shade of color between white and amber, visible from a distance of not less than 300 feet to the front in normal sunlight. The lamps showing to the rear must be located at the same level and as widely spaced laterally as practicable. Except as provided in subsection (3), when in use, the lamps must display a red or amber light, or a shade of color between red and amber, visible from a distance of not less than 300 feet to the rear in normal sunlight. When actuated the lamps must indicate the intended direction of turning by flashing the lights showing to the front and rear on the side toward which the turn is made.

(2) Except as provided in subsection (3), a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer must be equipped with signal lamps meeting the requirements of this section.

(3) On a motor **vehicle** manufactured or **assembled** before January 1, 1964, the signal lamps required by this section must be visible from a distance of not less than 100 feet. Signal lamps are not required on any **vehicle** manufactured or **assembled** before January 1, 1953.

(4) A stop lamp or signal lamp or device may not project a glaring light.

TITLE 61 MOTOR VEHICLES
CHAPTER 9 VEHICLE EQUIPMENT
PART 3 BRAKES

Mont. Code Anno., § 61-9-312 (2016)

61-9-312 Performance ability of brakes.

On a dry, hard, approximately level stretch of highway free from loose material, a motor vehicle or combination of vehicles, upon application of the service brake, must be capable of stopping at a speed of 20 miles an hour within the following distances:

- (1) 25 feet for passenger motor **vehicles**, except buses and **pioneer vehicles**;
- (2) 40 feet for buses, trucks, and tractor trucks;
- (3) 45 feet for motor vehicles registered or qualified to be registered as **pioneer vehicles** under [61-3-411\(2\)\(a\)](#) when equipped with two-wheel brakes or 25 feet when equipped with four-wheel brakes;
- (4) 40 feet for all combinations of vehicles; and
- (5) 30 feet for motorcycles, quadricycles, and motor-driven cycles.

TITLE 61 MOTOR VEHICLES
CHAPTER 9 VEHICLE EQUIPMENT
PART 4 MISCELLANEOUS REGULATIONS

Mont. Code Anno., § 61-9-407 (2016)

61-9-407 Fenders, splash aprons, or flaps required on certain vehicles -- dimension and location.

(1) A person may not move, or permit to be moved, a vehicle, except a motorcycle, quadricycle, motor-driven cycle, or farm tractor, as defined in this title, upon the public highways without having first equipped the rearmost wheels or set of wheels of the vehicle with fenders, splash aprons, or flaps. The fenders, splash aprons, or flaps must be designed, constructed, and attached to the vehicle in a manner that arrests and deflects dirt, mud, water, rocks, and other substances that may be picked up by the rear wheels of the vehicle and thrown into the air, as follows:

(a) If the vehicle is equipped with fenders, the fenders must extend in full width from a point above and forward of the center of the tire or tires over and to the rear of the tires.

(b) If the vehicle is equipped with splash aprons or flaps, the splash aprons or flaps must extend downward in full width from a point not lower than halfway between the center of the tire or tires and the top of the tire or tires and to the rear of the tires.

(c) If the vehicle is in excess of 8,000 pounds gross vehicle weight or rating, the fenders, splash aprons, or flaps must extend downward to a point that is not more than 10 inches above the surface of the highway when the vehicle is empty.

(d) If the vehicle is 8,000 pounds or less gross vehicle weight or rating, the fenders, splash aprons, or flaps must extend downward to a point that is not more than 20 inches above the surface of the highway when the vehicle is empty.

(2) Fenders, splash aprons, or flaps, as used in subsection (1), must be constructed as follows:

(a) when measured on the cross-sections of the tread of the wheel or on the combined cross-sections of the treads of multiple wheels, the fender, splash apron, or flap extends at least to each side of the width of the tire or of the combined width of the multiple tires; and

(b) the fender, splash apron, or flap is capable at all times of arresting and deflecting dirt, mud, water, or other substance that may be picked up and carried by the wheel or wheels.

(3) This section does not apply to a **street rod** as defined in [61-1-101](#), motor vehicles not originally equipped with fenders, splash aprons, or flaps, or motor vehicles for which fenders, splash aprons, or flaps were not required by federal law or regulation at the time of manufacture.

TITLE 61 MOTOR VEHICLES
CHAPTER 9 VEHICLE EQUIPMENT
PART 4 MISCELLANEOUS REGULATIONS

Mont. Code Anno., § 61-9-409 (2016)

61-9-409 Seatbelts required in vehicles manufactured after 1964.

- (1) An **automobile** that was manufactured or **assembled** after January 1, 1965, and on or before January 1, 1968, must be equipped with safety belts installed for use in the left front and right front seats.
- (2) A motor vehicle manufactured after January 1, 1968, must be equipped at each designated seating position with a safety belt system required for that seating position by the standards of the United States department of transportation at the time that the vehicle was manufactured.
- (3) The safety belts required by this section must remain installed and in good working condition.

TITLE 61 MOTOR VEHICLES
CHAPTER 9 VEHICLE EQUIPMENT
PART 4 MISCELLANEOUS REGULATIONS

Mont. Code Anno., § 61-9-430 (2016)

61-9-430 Bumpers.

(1) A motor vehicle of less than 10,000 pounds gross vehicle weight or rating registered in Montana, except a motorcycle, a quadricycle, a motor-driven cycle, or a farm tractor, must be equipped with a front bumper and, unless the vehicle is equipped with work-performing features that make installation impractical or unnecessary, with a rear bumper.

(2) This section does not apply to a **street rod**, as defined in [61-1-101](#), vehicles not originally equipped with front or rear bumpers, or vehicles for which bumpers were not required by federal law or regulation at the time of manufacture.

TITLE 61 MOTOR VEHICLES
CHAPTER 3 CERTIFICATES OF TITLE, REGISTRATION, AND TAXATION OF MOTOR VEHICLES
PART 2 CERTIFICATES OF TITLE

Mont. Code Anno., § 61-3-206 (2016)

61-3-206 Odometer disclosure requirements on transfer of vehicle -- dealer to preserve record.

(1) Except as provided in subsection (4), before executing any transfer of ownership document relating to a motor vehicle, each seller of a motor vehicle shall record on the certificate of title the odometer reading at the time of transfer or, if the certificate of title does not provide for the recording of the odometer reading, furnish to the purchaser a written statement, to be signed by the seller, that contains the following information:

- (a) the odometer reading at the time of transfer;
- (b) the date of transfer;
- (c) the seller's name and current address;
- (d) the purchaser's name and current address;
- (e) the motor vehicle year, make, model, body style, and identification number;
- (f) one of the following statements or certification:
 - (i) a certification by the seller that, to the best of the seller's knowledge, the odometer reading reflects the actual miles or kilometers the vehicle has been driven;
 - (ii) if the seller knows that the odometer reading reflects the amount of mileage in excess of the designed mechanical odometer limit of 99,999 miles or kilometers, the seller shall include a statement to that effect; or
 - (iii) if the seller knows that the odometer reading differs from the number of miles or kilometers the motor vehicle has actually traveled and that the difference is greater than that caused by odometer calibration error, the seller shall include a statement that the odometer reading is not the actual mileage and should not be relied upon.

(2) The purchaser shall acknowledge receipt of the disclosure statement by signing it.

(3) For the purposes of this section, an odometer disclosure statement may be executed in electronic form and used with an electronic signature pursuant to Title 30, chapter 18, part 1.

(4) The seller of the following types of motor vehicles need not disclose the odometer reading of the vehicle as required in subsection (1):

- (a) a motor vehicle that is 10 years old or older;
- (b) a vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, travel trailer, camper, or sailboat that is not self-propelled;
- (c) a new motor vehicle transferred between dealers or wholesalers prior to its first retail sale, unless the motor vehicle has been used as a demonstrator;
- (d) a motor vehicle having a gross weight rating of more than 16,000 pounds; or
- (e) a motor vehicle sold directly by the manufacturer to an agency of the United States.

(5) A dealer, an auto auction, or a wholesaler licensed under chapter 4 of this title shall create a record of the information required in subsection (1) and shall maintain and preserve that record for at least 5 years after the date of sale of the motor vehicle to which the information pertains.

TITLE 61 MOTOR VEHICLES
CHAPTER 9 VEHICLE EQUIPMENT
PART 2 LIGHTING EQUIPMENT

Mont. Code Anno., § 61-9-206 (2016)

61-9-206 Stop lamps -- when required.

(1) A person may not sell a new motor vehicle in this state or drive a vehicle on the highways unless it is equipped with at least two properly functioning stop lamps. A **vehicle manufactured before** January 1, 1956, and all motorcycles, quadricycles, and motor-driven cycles must be equipped with at least one properly functioning stop lamp.

(2) The stop lamp or lamps on the rear of a vehicle must display a red light that is actuated upon application of the service (foot) brake and, in a vehicle manufactured or assembled on or after January 1, 1964, must be visible from a distance of not less than 300 feet to the rear in normal sunlight. In a **vehicle manufactured** or assembled **before** January 1, 1964, the stop lamp or lamps must be visible from a distance of not less than 100 feet. The stop lamp may be incorporated with one or more other rear lamps.

(3) A stop lamp may not project a glaring light.

TITLE 61 MOTOR VEHICLES
CHAPTER 9 VEHICLE EQUIPMENT
PART 2 LIGHTING EQUIPMENT

Mont. Code Anno., § 61-9-218 (2016)

61-9-218 Signal lamps and signal devices -- when required.

(1) A motor vehicle or combination of vehicles may be equipped and when required under this chapter must be equipped with signal lamps showing to the front and rear for the purpose of indicating an intention to turn either to the right or left. The lamps showing to the front must be located on the same level and as widely spaced laterally as practicable. Except as provided in subsection (3), when in use, the lamps must display a white or amber light, or a shade of color between white and amber, visible from a distance of not less than 300 feet to the front in normal sunlight. The lamps showing to the rear must be located at the same level and as widely spaced laterally as practicable. Except as provided in subsection (3), when in use, the lamps must display a red or amber light, or a shade of color between red and amber, visible from a distance of not less than 300 feet to the rear in normal sunlight. When actuated the lamps must indicate the intended direction of turning by flashing the lights showing to the front and rear on the side toward which the turn is made.

(2) Except as provided in subsection (3), a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer must be equipped with signal lamps meeting the requirements of this section.

(3) On a motor **vehicle manufactured** or assembled **before** January 1, 1964, the signal lamps required by this section must be visible from a distance of not less than 100 feet. Signal lamps are not required on any **vehicle manufactured** or assembled **before** January 1, 1953.

(4) A stop lamp or signal lamp or device may not project a glaring light.

TITLE 61 MOTOR VEHICLES
CHAPTER 9 VEHICLE EQUIPMENT
PART 2 LIGHTING EQUIPMENT

Mont. Code Anno., § 61-9-222 (2016)

61-9-222 Single-beam road-lighting equipment.

Headlamps arranged to provide a single distribution of light shall be permitted on motor **vehicles manufactured** and sold **prior** to July 1, 1956, in lieu of multiple-beam road-lighting equipment herein specified if the single distribution of light complies with the following requirements and limitations:

- (1) The headlamps shall be so aimed that when the vehicle is not loaded none of the high-intensity portion of the light shall at a distance of 25 feet ahead project higher than a level of 5 inches below the level of the center of the lamp from which it comes, and in no case higher than 42 inches above the level on which the vehicle stands at a distance of 75 feet ahead.
- (2) The intensity shall be sufficient to reveal persons and vehicles at a distance of at least 200 feet.

TITLE 61 MOTOR VEHICLES
CHAPTER 9 VEHICLE EQUIPMENT
PART 3 BRAKES

Mont. Code Anno., § 61-9-304 (2016)

61-9-304 Brakes required on all wheels -- exceptions.

Every vehicle must be equipped with brakes acting on all wheels except:

- (1) trailers, semitrailers, pole trailers of a gross weight not exceeding 3,000 pounds, provided that:
 - (a) the total weight on and including the wheels of the trailer or trailers may not exceed 40% of the gross weight of the towing vehicle when connected to the trailer or trailers; and
 - (b) the combination of vehicles consisting of the towing vehicle and its total towed load is capable of complying with the performance requirements of [61-9-312](#);
- (2) any vehicle being towed in driveaway or towaway operations, provided the combination of vehicles is capable of complying with the performance requirements of [61-9-312](#);
- (3) trucks and truck tractors having three or more axles need not have brakes on the front wheels, if the **vehicle was manufactured before** July 25, 1980. However, the trucks and truck tractors must be capable of complying with the performance requirements of [61-9-312](#).
- (4) special mobile equipment;
- (5) the wheel of a sidecar attached to a motorcycle or to a motor-driven cycle, or the front wheel of a motor-driven cycle need not be equipped with brakes. However, a quadricycle, motorcycle, or motor-driven cycle must be capable of complying with the performance requirements of [61-9-312](#).

Emissions Exemptions

Montana does not operate a vehicle emissions testing program.