Sixty-sixth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
In Regular Session Commencing Thursday, January 3, 2019

HOUSE BILL NO. 1291
(Representatives Mock, D. Johnson, Kempenich, Owens, D. Ruby, Vigesaa, Weisz)
(Senators Bakke, Clemens, Dwyer, G. Lee, Oehlke)

AN ACT to amend and reenact section 39-04-12, subsection 1 of section 39-04-18, and subsection 4 of section 39-04-19 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to semitrailer and farm trailer plates; and to provide for application.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT. Section 39-04-12 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

39-04-12. Contents of number plates - Size of letters and numerals on plates - Reflectorized - Tabs or stickers ~~- Additional fee~~.

1. Number plates must be of metal or other suitable material bearing the name of the state, either in full or by abbreviation, the number of the year, the slogan "Peace Garden State" and a distinctive number for assignment to each vehicle. The distinctive number may be in figures or a combination of figures and letters and must be of a size clearly distinguishable by law enforcement officers and individuals generally. To reduce highway accidents at night all number plates must be legible for a minimum distance of one hundred feet [30.48 meters] to an approaching motorist by day or night with lawful headlight beams and without other illumination. Each plate must be treated with a reflectorized material according to the specifications prescribed by the department. The department shall furnish for each annual registration a year plate, tab, or sticker to designate the year registration. The plate, tab, or sticker must show the registration year for which issued, and is valid only for that year.

2. ~~The department, in its discretion, may provide to an owner of a trailer that is operated, offered for lease, or rented to the public, number plates that are for a period of not more than six consecutive years and which are exempt from the requirements of annual validation evidence. The registration fees for the trailer may be paid for the entire period for which the plates are issued, or the fee may be paid for the first year of the issue and a corporate surety bond may be filed in the sum the department determines reasonable and adequate in the circumstances, conditioned that the owner will pay the annual fee at the beginning of each annual registration period. The department shall transfer to a replacement trailer number plates issued pursuant to this subsection along with any unused registration fees. If the owner has disposed of the trailer and is not replacing the trailer, upon surrender of the number plates the department shall issue a refund of the registration fees paid for any unused registration year.~~

~~3.~~ The department may provide to an owner of a fleet of one hundred or more vehicles number plates that are valid for as many as six consecutive years and that are exempt from the requirements of evidence of annual validation. The registrant shall file with the department a corporate surety bond in an amount the department determines to be reasonable and adequate, and conditioned that the owner will pay the annual fee at the beginning of each annual registration period for which the number plates are valid.

SECTION 2. AMENDMENT. Subsection 1 of section 39-04-18 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

1. a. Except as provided in this section, ~~every~~a motor vehicle as defined in section 39-01-01~~, trailer or semitrailer designed to be towed by a truck or truck tractor, and farm trailer~~ or a

trailer operated or intended to be operated upon ~~any~~a highway, road, or street in this state must be registered annually with the department. ~~Any~~

b. A semitrailer or a farm trailer operated or intended to be operated upon a highway, road, or street in this state must be registered with the department either annually or permanently, at the discretion of the registrant.

c. A vehicle being operated on highways, roads, or streets of this state must display license plates as furnished by the department upon payment of the fees prescribed in this chapter.

d. Upon satisfactory proof to the department that a motor vehicle owned by a resident of this state was not used upon any of the highways of this state in any one or more years, the motor vehicle may be registered upon payment of the registration fee for the current year.

~~Any~~

e. A resident of the state of North Dakota, serving in the armed forces of the United States for a period of time greater than one year, may relicense ~~any~~a motor vehicle owned by the veteran without paying ~~any~~a fee or ~~penalties~~penalty for the intervening years when the vehicle was not licensed, providing the veteran shows by suitable affidavit that the vehicle was not in use during ~~any~~a year in which it was not licensed. The vehicle must be licensed for the license fee applicable to the month of the year in which application for license is made.

SECTION 3. AMENDMENT. Subsection 4 of section 39-04-19 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

4. ~~Every~~

a. Each trailer, except a semitrailer~~, and~~ or farm trailer, required to be registered under this chapter must be furnished registration plates upon the payment of a twenty dollar annual fee. ~~Every~~A trailer, semitrailer, or farm trailer not required to be registered under this chapter must be furnished an identification plate upon the payment of a fee of five dollars.

b. A semitrailer or farm trailer required to be registered under this chapter must be furnished:

(1) Permanent registration plates upon the payment of a permanent registration fee of one hundred twenty dollars. The permanent registration is valid until ownership of the semitrailer or farm trailer is transferred, assigned, or if the semitrailer is destroyed or otherwise completely removed from the service of the owner; or

(2) Annual registration upon the payment of a twenty dollar annual fee.

c. Upon the request of a person with a trailer or farm trailer to whom a registration or identification plate is provided under this subsection, the department shall provide a plate of the same size as provided for a motorcycle. The department shall provide notification of this option to the person before the replacement or issuance of the plate.

SECTION 4. APPLICATION. An owner of a semitrailer or farm trailer newly registered after August 1, 2019, shall pay the fees provided in section 3 of this Act. The owner of a currently registered semitrailer or farm trailer on August 1, 2019, shall renew registration and pay the fees provided in section 3 of this Act before January 1, 2020. The owner of a semitrailer or farm trailer currently registered under subsection 2 of section 39-04-12 as of August 1, 2019, shall renew registration and pay the fees provided in section 3 of this Act before January 1, 2020. That owner is entitled to receive a

reduction in the fee of previously paid unused registration fees, except for fees paid for the 2019 registration year.

Speaker of the House

President of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

Secretary of the Senate

This certifies that the within bill originated in the House of Representatives of the Sixty-sixth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and is known on the records of that body as House Bill No. 1291.

House Vote:	Yeas 89	Nays 0	Absent 5
Senate Vote:	Yeas 44	Nays 0	Absent 3

Chief Clerk of the House

Received by the Governor at 4:02 P.M. on March 19, 2019.

Approved at 9:21 P.M. on March 21, 2019.

Governor

Filed in this office this 22nd day of March, 2019,

at 10:11 o'clock A. M.

Secretary of State