

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE BILL NO. 235

BY WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

AN ACT

1 RELATING TO MOTOR VEHICLES; AMENDING SECTION 49-402, IDAHO CODE, TO PROVIDE  
2 A CODE REFERENCE; AMENDING CHAPTER 4, TITLE 49, IDAHO CODE, BY THE AD-  
3 DITION OF A NEW SECTION 49-420T, IDAHO CODE, TO ESTABLISH AN APPEAL TO  
4 HEAVEN LICENSE PLATE; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY AND PROVIDING AN EF-  
5 FECTIVE DATE.  
6

7 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

8 SECTION 1. That Section 49-402, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby  
9 amended to read as follows:

10 49-402. ANNUAL REGISTRATION. (1) The annual fee for operating each  
11 pickup truck, each neighborhood electric vehicle and each other motor ve-  
12 hicle having a maximum gross weight not in excess of eight thousand (8,000)  
13 pounds and that complies with the federal motor vehicle safety standards as  
14 defined in section 49-107, Idaho Code, shall be:

- 15 Vehicles one (1) and two (2) years old .....\$69.00
- 16 Vehicles three (3) and four (4) years old .....\$57.00
- 17 Vehicles five (5) and six (6) years old .....\$57.00
- 18 Vehicles seven (7) and eight (8) years old .....\$45.00
- 19 Vehicles over eight (8) years old .....\$45.00

20 There shall be twelve (12) registration periods, starting in January  
21 for holders of validation registration stickers numbered 1, and proceed-  
22 ing consecutively through December for holders of validation registration  
23 stickers numbered 12, each of which shall start on the first day of a calendar  
24 month and end on the last day of the twelfth month from the first day of the  
25 beginning month. Registration periods shall expire midnight on the last day  
26 of the registration period in the year designated by the validation regis-  
27 tration sticker. The numeral digit on the validation registration stickers  
28 shall, as does the registration card, fix the registration period under the  
29 staggered registration system for the purpose of reregistration and notice  
30 of expiration.

31 A vehicle that has once been registered for any of the above-designated  
32 periods shall, upon reregistration, be registered for the period bearing the  
33 same number, and the registration card shall show and be the exclusive proof  
34 of the expiration date of registration and licensing. Vehicles may be ini-  
35 tially registered for less than a twelve (12) month period, or for more than a  
36 twelve (12) month period, and the fee prorated on a monthly basis if the frac-  
37 tional registration tends to fulfill the purpose of the monthly series reg-  
38 istration system.

39 (2) For all school buses operated either by a nonprofit, nonpublic  
40 school or operated pursuant to a service contract with a school district for  
41 transporting children to or from school or in connection with school-ap-  
42 proved activities, the annual fee shall be twenty-four dollars (\$24.00) and

1 shall be subject to staggered registration for the purpose of reregistration  
2 and notice of expiration.

3 (3) For all motorcycles and motor-driven cycles that comply with the  
4 federal motor vehicle safety standards, operated upon the public highways,  
5 the annual fee shall be nineteen dollars (\$19.00) and shall be subject to  
6 staggered registration for the purpose of reregistration and notice of ex-  
7 piration.

8 (4) For operation of an all-terrain vehicle, utility type vehicle or  
9 motorbike, excluding a motorbike with an engine displacement of fifty (50)  
10 cubic centimeters or less, on city, county or highway district roads or  
11 highways open to such use, a restricted vehicle license plate fee pursuant  
12 to section 49-450, Idaho Code, shall be paid. In addition, the certifi-  
13 cate of number fee specified in section 67-7122, Idaho Code, shall be paid  
14 as provided in section 67-7122, Idaho Code. The certificate of number and  
15 restricted vehicle license plate exemption provided in section 49-426(2),  
16 Idaho Code, applies to all-terrain vehicles, utility type vehicles, motor-  
17 bikes and motorcycles used for the purposes described in section 49-426(2),  
18 Idaho Code. Nonresidents shall be allowed to purchase a restricted vehicle  
19 license plate and validation sticker pursuant to section 67-7124, Idaho  
20 Code, for an all-terrain vehicle, utility type vehicle, or motorbike.

21 (5) For all motor homes, the fee shall be as specified in subsection (1)  
22 of this section and shall be in addition to the fees provided for in section  
23 49-445, Idaho Code.

24 (6) Registration fees shall not be subject to refund.

25 (7) A financial institution or repossession service contracted to  
26 a financial institution repossessing vehicles under the terms of a secu-  
27 rity agreement shall move the vehicle from the place of repossession to the  
28 financial institution's place of business on a repossession plate. The  
29 repossession plate shall also be used for demonstrating the vehicle to a  
30 prospective purchaser for a period not to exceed ninety-six (96) hours. The  
31 registration fees for repossession plates shall be as required in subsection  
32 (1) of this section for a vehicle one (1) and two (2) years old. All other  
33 fees required under chapter 4, title 49, Idaho Code, shall be in addition to  
34 the registration fee. The repossession plate shall be subject to staggered  
35 registration for the purpose of reregistration and notice of expiration.

36 (8) A wrecker or towing business engaged in the process of towing motor-  
37 ized vehicles that have been wrecked, abandoned, salvaged or may be disabled  
38 may apply for a wrecker plate to be displayed on those vehicles being towed,  
39 provided the power unit is properly registered under this chapter. The reg-  
40 istration fees for wrecker plates shall be as required in subsection (1) of  
41 this section for a vehicle one (1) and two (2) years old. All other fees re-  
42 quired under chapter 4, title 49, Idaho Code, shall be in addition to the reg-  
43 istration fee and shall be subject to staggered registration for the purpose  
44 of reregistration and notice of expiration.

45 (9) In addition to the annual registration fee in this section, there  
46 shall be an initial program fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) and an an-  
47 nual program fee of fifteen dollars (\$15.00) for all special license plate  
48 programs for those license plates issued pursuant to sections 49-404A,  
49 49-407, 49-408, 49-409, 49-414, 49-416, 49-418 and 49-418D, Idaho Code. For  
50 special plates issued pursuant to sections 49-406 and 49-406A, Idaho Code,

1 there shall be an initial program fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) but  
 2 there shall be no annual renewal fee. For special plates issued pursuant  
 3 to sections 49-415D, 49-417, 49-417A, 49-417B, 49-417C, 49-417D, 49-418A,  
 4 49-418B, 49-418C, 49-419, 49-419A, 49-419C, 49-419E, 49-420, 49-420A,  
 5 49-420B, 49-420C, 49-420D, 49-420E, 49-420J, 49-420K, 49-420L, 49-420M,  
 6 49-420N, 49-420O, 49-420P, 49-420Q, 49-420R, ~~and~~ 49-420S, and 49-420T,  
 7 Idaho Code, and any new special plate program effective on and after January  
 8 1, 2013, pursuant to section 49-402D, Idaho Code, there shall be an initial  
 9 program fee of thirty-five dollars (\$35.00) and an annual program fee of  
 10 twenty-five dollars (\$25.00). The fees contained in this subsection shall  
 11 be applicable to all new special plate programs and shall be subject to stag-  
 12 gered registration for the purpose of reregistration and notice of expira-  
 13 tion. The initial program fee and the annual program fee shall be deposited  
 14 in the state highway account and shall be used to fund the cost of administra-  
 15 tion of special license plate programs, unless otherwise specified by law.

16 (10) Any vehicle that does not meet federal motor vehicle safety stan-  
 17 dards shall not be registered and shall not be permitted to operate on public  
 18 highways of the state, as defined in section 40-117, Idaho Code, unless oth-  
 19 erwise specifically authorized.

20 (11) In addition to annual registration fees as provided in this sec-  
 21 tion, registrants may pay a fee to purchase an Idaho state parks passport  
 22 authorizing resident motor vehicle entry into all Idaho state parks. Reg-  
 23 istrants may pay the fee for a one (1) year or two (2) year period of time.  
 24 The fee shall be ten dollars (\$10.00) for one (1) year and twenty dollars  
 25 (\$20.00) for two (2) years. All fees collected pursuant to this subsection  
 26 shall be deposited into the park and recreation fund and shall be subject to  
 27 appropriation. Fees collected pursuant to this subsection shall not be con-  
 28 sidered a motor vehicle registration fee as provided in section 17, article  
 29 VII, of the constitution of the state of Idaho.

30 SECTION 2. That Chapter 4, Title 49, Idaho Code, be, and the same is  
 31 hereby amended by the addition thereto of a NEW SECTION, to be known and des-  
 32 ignated as Section 49-420T, Idaho Code, and to read as follows:

33 49-420T. AN APPEAL TO HEAVEN LICENCE PLATES. (1) On and after January  
 34 1, 2026, any person who is the owner of a vehicle registered under the provi-  
 35 sions of section 49-402, Idaho Code, or registered under any other section of  
 36 law for which the purchase of special plates is allowed, may apply for and,  
 37 upon department approval, receive special an appeal to heaven license plates  
 38 in lieu of regular license plates.

39 (2) The provisions of this section shall not apply to any vehicle with  
 40 a registered maximum gross weight over twenty-six thousand (26,000) pounds.  
 41 Availability of an appeal to heaven license plates for other vehicles shall  
 42 be subject to the rules, policies, and procedures of the department.

43 (3) In addition to the regular registration fee required in this chap-  
 44 ter, the applicant shall be charged a fee of thirty-five dollars (\$35.00) for  
 45 the initial issuance of plates, and twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) upon each  
 46 succeeding annual registration. Such fees shall be deposited in the state  
 47 highway account and shall be used, in part, to fund the cost of the plate de-  
 48 sign and administration of this special license plate program.

1 (4) Whenever title or interest in a vehicle registered under the pro-  
2 visions of this section is transferred or assigned, the owner may transfer  
3 the special plates to another vehicle upon payment of the required transfer  
4 fees. The owner may display the plates on another vehicle only upon receipt  
5 of the new registration from the department.

6 (5) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 49-402C, Idaho Code, the  
7 an appeal to heaven license plate design shall be of a color and design sim-  
8 ilar to the flag portion of the United States postal service's 1968 six-cent  
9 (6¢) stamp commemorating George Washington's cruisers flag of 1775, except  
10 with a brown tree trunk and the words "AN APPEAL TO HEAVEN" on the bottom cen-  
11 ter and the word "IDAHO" in the top center. Such design shall be approved  
12 by the department, utilizing a numbering system as determined by the depart-  
13 ment.

14 (6) The an appeal to heaven license plate established in this section  
15 shall be exempt from the requirements of section 49-402D.

16 (7) Sample an appeal to heaven license plates may be purchased for a  
17 fee of fifteen dollars (\$15.00), which shall be deposited in the state high-  
18 way account. No additional fee shall be charged for personalizing sample  
19 plates.

20 SECTION 3. An emergency existing therefor, which emergency is hereby  
21 declared to exist, this act shall be in full force and effect on and after  
22 July 1, 2025.