

County Clerk Spring Conference – 2025 – Vehicle Services

New License Plates:

- Class 1008/Issue Year 2024 Disabled Passenger In God We Trust
- Class 1009/Issue Year 2024 Disabled Passenger Permanently Confined to a Wheelchair In God We Trust
- Class 3102/Issue Year 2024 Promote Peace
- Class 3099/Issue Year 2024 Crusade Against Darkness

Initial Applicants for Specialty License Plates: The first initial applicants for a new specialty plate pay the \$35.00 up front to the organization, counties do not need to collect this fee when issuing these plates. Also, the customer does not have to present the letter from the state, The letter is just to notify the customer when their plate will be at the county office. County Clerks and staff should refer to the applicant list Vehicle Services sends for each new Specialty plate.

Review and Removal of Obsolete and Miscoded Inventory: County Clerk offices are to review their obsolete inventory report regularly and take corrective action to correct inventory records. i3 Verticals prepares a weekly obsolete inventory report for County Clerks to utilize to identify and remove not only obsolete but possibly miscoded items.

Membership Credentials: Proof of membership is no longer needed at renewal for most plates. Proof of membership at renewal is only required on the below:

3141 – Firefighter
5558 – Firefighter Motorcycle
3359 – Rescue Squad Officials
3360 – Rescue Squad
5570 – Rescue Squad Motorcycle
3100 – Emergency
3875 – Emergency Trauma Physician
5557 – Emergency Motorcycle

Surety Bonds: Vehicle Services Anti-Theft unit now processes Surety Bond applications. We ask that all required documentation and applications for Surety Bonds please be submitted to Suretybond.Title@tn.gov. All questions regarding Surety Bonds should be directed to **615-741-3101**, or Suretybond.title@tn.gov

Processing an N1 vs. 01: If a customer is moving back to Tennessee but presenting a more recent out of state title you will need to process this as a 01 transaction, not a N1, since the vehicle is already on the system.

Scanning in documents to clear a rejection: If documents to clear a rejection are scanned in on a 17 transaction the transaction must be sent in as an incomplete or the documents will not be seen, and the rejection will not be cleared. Documents to clear a rejection can also be emailed to CountyClerk.Help@tn.gov

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Registering of Mini Trucks: Mini trucks should receive a medium speed registration or a Class I registration.

Off-highway vehicles: Vehicles commonly referred to as “off-highway vehicles” may be issued a low/medium speed or Class I or Class II plate, so long as the vehicle meets the requirements for the plate chosen.

DD Form 256CG: Per Veterans Services, in the event an applicant's DD214 does not address character of service, the issuance of a DD Form 256CG indicating the applicant received an honorable discharge certificate will suffice as proof of honorable discharge status.

Process for States that do not have same title law: A registration document is not sufficient proof of ownership where another state does not have the same title law. There is nothing in Tennessee law that supports an alternative or less stringent approach based on the law or practices of the state of purchase. A certification of ownership or surety bond would be required to support a title application for a vehicle coming from a state with different title law.

Use of A.D.D. in the Abandoned Vehicle Process: An application to title and register these vehicles must be accompanied by verification of ownership from the Division either on an MVDS printout, AV form or TIES report. For out of state records A.D.D. (Auto Data Direct) can be used but the company must first reach out to Vehicle Services to provide the out of state information.

Issuance of Duplicate Titles: A duplicate title should not be issued less than 15 mailing days from the date of the issuance of the original title. We have recently seen instances where a title has been issued and a duplicate issued the very next day. This prevents the original county of issuance from printing their title and closing out the month. TN Clerk notifies the user when a duplicate transaction is started if a title has been issued in the past 30 days the user has to select “Yes” and enter a comment, this is meant to prevent a duplicate title being issued in that 15-day window.

Noting of Second Liens: The Department handles lien notations where the title is in possession of a prior or superior lienor, as would be the case for notations of secondary liens.

Legislation:

SB1300	HB0119	Title and Registration	Requires DOR, instead of DOS, to issue a certificate stating that a cash deposit or bond in the amount required by the Tennessee Financial Responsibility Law of 1977 has been paid or filed with the commissioner of revenue. Requires DOR to also issue certificates for self-insurers.	1/1/2026	PC 83 (2025)
SB1017	HB1350	Title and Registration	Requires DOR to create a distinguishing placard for eligible disabled veterans to be issued to disabled veterans in lieu of a distinguishing license plate for parking purposes for free or in addition to the license plate upon payment	7/1/2026	PC 73 (2025)
SB0119	HB1142	Title and Registration	Requires this state's definition of manufactured home to automatically update with the definition of manufactured home under title 42 of the United States Code, which currently excludes a self-propelled recreational vehicle.	7/1/2025	PC 112 (2025)

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SB0620	HB0442	Title and Registration	Authorizes an antique emergency vehicle registered as an antique motor vehicle to be used for participation in, or transportation to and from, community or educational events, including displays at fairs, festivals, and schools, as well as during weekends and holidays; authorizes the installation and operation of emergency lights and sirens on a privately owned antique emergency vehicle under certain circumstances.	7/1/2025	PC 143 (2025)
SB0228	HB0537	Title and Registration	Allows law enforcement to accept a digital copy of vehicle registration as proof of registration.	7/1/2025	PC 157 (2025)
SB0660	HB0737	Title and Registration	Authorizes a county clerk, during a period when the clerk's office is closed due to an emergency, to request the assistance of a county clerk in a contiguous county for purposes of registering motor vehicles and related transactions. Requires clerk to notify DOR.	4/11/2025	PC 193 (2025)
SB0728	HB0810	Title and Registration	Authorizes utility terrain vehicles to operate on county roads and state highways throughout the state, subject to certain restrictions (rewrite of current statutes-should not have a T&R impact)	4/24/2025	PC 255 (2025)
SB1068	HB0972	Title and Registration	MOTION ACT. Adds new functionalities to the unclaimed vehicle portal to be implemented by DOR. Requires DOR to begin procurement by 7/1/25 and implement the portal by 10/1/26. Allows entities to notify owners of abandoned vehicles via three-day delivery. Makes various other changes to towing and booting law.	Effective upon law	Transmitted to Gov 5.1.25.
SB0203	HB0212	Title and Registration	SLP Omnibus Bill: Introduces various new specialty license plates and extends the deadline for those introduced previously that did not meet the deadline	7/1/2025	Waiting on signatures 4.30.25
SB0876	HB0624	Title and Registration	For license plates and decals renewed via mail, the bill increases the handling mail order service fee from \$5 to \$7 and for decals renewed by mail from \$2 to \$3.	7/1/2025	Signed by Gov 5.2.25