

Motor Vehicle Division Informational Memo # 24-08

2024 Legislation – Any County Vehicle Title and Registration and Fee Increases

DATE: May 10, 2024

FROM: Sara Siedsma, Motor Vehicle Division

TO: All Motor Vehicle Division staff; all County Treasurers and County Treasurer staff

EFFECTIVE: JANUARY 1, 2025

SUBJECT

This informational memo explains legislation passed during the 2024 legislative session that changes which county treasurer can perform certain vehicle title and registration transactions and increases fees for certain title and registration transactions completed by a county treasurer and by MVD staff for motor carriers.

SUMMARY

House File 674 will allow an Iowa county treasurer in any county to perform certain vehicle registration and title transactions, including application for new title and registration, applications for transfer and perfecting security interests among others, that previously could only be performed by the treasurer in the customer's county of residence or a treasurer in a contiguous county. The bill also increases fees for several different transactions performed by the county treasurer (and by MVD staff for motor carriers) as well as increasing the amount of fees the treasurer may retain for deposit in the county general fund.

The legislation becomes effective January 1, 2025.

LINK TO LEGISLATION

[HF674.pdf \(iowa.gov\)](#)

CURRENT

An applicant must apply to the county of residence of the owner, lessee, or primary user, or to a contiguous county for certain title and registration transactions. Transaction fees vary, and the amounts charged and retained by the treasurer for deposit in the county general fund, are set by Iowa Code.

NEW

As of January 1, 2025, an applicant may apply to any county treasurer for certain title and registration transactions. Transaction fees set by Iowa Code will be increased and there will be a corresponding increase in the amount the treasurer may deposit in the county general fund.

BUSINESS IMPACT

This legislation impacts county treasurers who process applications for vehicle title and registration. The legislation also impacts MVD staff who process vehicle title and registration applications for motor carriers, but only to the extent that fees for various transactions will be increasing when the legislation takes effect. This

legislation will require IT, forms and process changes, and will impact both ARTS and ERT. We will be fully assessing the exact registration and title transactions impacted by this legislation as well as the impact of the fee increases on programming as we work to implement the changes. **We will provide further implementation guidance once we are closer to the January 1, 2025 deadline.** We also anticipate updating or possibly rescinding existing IM 22-04 that addresses contiguous county title and registration.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

HOW WILL I KNOW WHICH REGISTRATION AND TITLE TRANSACTIONS MAY BE PERFORMED BY ANY COUNTY TREASURER?

As part of the implementation process, we will be fully assessing which registration and title transactions may be performed by any county treasurer. We believe the list will align closely with that is currently allowed for contiguous counties, but we need to complete a full assessment before any final guidance can be issued.

HOW WILL I KNOW WHICH FEES ARE INCREASING?

As noted above, we will be fully assessing the fee increases included in the legislation and will be providing exact guidance on the new fee amounts once we are closer to implementation. At this point, we believe there will be fee increases of roughly \$10 for each of the following transactions: general title transactions, replacement titles, manufacturer buy backs, security interest transactions, salvage titles, and the fee for new registration.

DOES THE COUNTY TREASURER IN THE CUSTOMER'S COUNTY OF RESIDENCE STILL PERFORM REGISTRATION RENEWALS?

Yes, the legislation specifically requires that the treasurer in the customer's county of residence will continue to process registration renewals under Iowa Code section 321.40.

DOES THE LEGISLATION ALLOW A COUNTY STANDARD LICENSE PLATE TO BE ISSUED WITH BLANK COUNTY NAME?

No. The final version of the legislation that was passed into law does not allow the county standard license plate to be issued with the county name left blank.