Minnesota Simple & Fair Tabs Act

An Act to establish a transparent, predictable, and affordable vehicle registration system that reduces financial burden on Minnesotans while maintaining stable funding for roads, bridges, and transportation infrastructure.

I. Purpose

The purpose of this Act is to simplify vehicle registration fees, make tab costs affordable and predictable, reflect vehicle depreciation fairly, protect transportation infrastructure funding, and ensure all revenue is dedicated exclusively to roads, bridges, highway maintenance, snow removal, and transportation safety.

II. Fee Structure

Section 1. Base Registration Fee

$25 annual base fee for all passenger vehicles.

Section 2. Value-Based Registration Component

An additional annual fee equal to 1% of the vehicle's market value, with a minimum of $50 and a maximum of $225.

Section 3. Age-Based Discounts

Vehicles 10 years or older: 40% reduction of total registration fee.
Vehicles 15 years or older: 60% reduction of total registration fee.
The value-based portion shall not fall below the $50 minimum.

Section 4. Electric Vehicles (EVs)

Electric vehicles shall pay a flat $75 annual road-use fee plus the $25 base registration fee. No additional surcharges shall apply.

Section 5. Partial-Year Registration

If a vehicle is not registered or operated for part of the year, the owner shall pay only for the remaining portion of the registration year. No retroactive charges shall apply.

Section 6. Collector Plate Reform

Vehicles 20 years or older qualify for collector status if driven less than 20 miles per week. No requirement to own a second vehicle. Eligible vehicles are exempt from annual registration fees.

III. Illustrative Examples of Fee Application

Example A: New Vehicle ($40,000 value)
Without cap: $400 + $25 = $425 2,125 , 1125
Under this Act: $225 cap + $25 = $250
Savings: $175

Example B: 5-Year-Old Vehicle ($25,000 value)
Without cap: $250 + $25 = $275
Under this Act: $225 cap + $25 = $250
Savings: $25

Example C: 10-Year-Old Vehicle ($15,000 value)
Without discount: $150 + $25 = $175
Under this Act (40% discount): $105
Savings: $70

Example D: 15-Year-Old Vehicle ($8,000 value)
Without discount: $80 + $25 = $105
Under this Act (minimum enforced): $75
Savings: $30

Example E: 20-Year-Old Vehicle ($4,000 value)
Without minimum: $40 + $25 = $65
Under this Act (minimum enforced): $75
Or $0 if qualifying under collector provision.

IV. Fiscal Stability & Infrastructure Protection

This structure prevents excessive tab spikes, provides meaningful relief for older vehicles, maintains a minimum revenue floor, protects transportation infrastructure funding, and ensures roads and bridges remain properly maintained.