

Motor Carrier Road Use Fee

As Included in Road Funding Legislation H.3516, RAT#51,
ACT # - TBD

Passed by the House & Senate ~ Veto of Governor Overridden

Beginning in January 2019, property taxes paid on commercial vehicles over 26,000 lbs. will be renamed a “Road Use Fee,” and will be combined into the existing registration process (IRP) for commercial vehicles over 26,000lbs. through the SC Department of Motor Vehicles. This creates a one stop shop for SC motor carriers for collection of vehicle-related fees.

SECTION 8. A. Article 23, Chapter 37, Title 12 of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“Article 23

Motor Carriers

Section 12-37-2810. As used in this article, unless the context requires otherwise:

(A) ‘Motor carrier’ means a person who owns, controls, operates, manages, or leases a commercial motor vehicle, or bus for the transportation of property or persons in intrastate or interstate commerce except for scheduled intercity bus service and farm vehicles using FM tags as allowed by the Department of Motor Vehicles. A motor carrier is defined further as being a South Carolina-based International Registration Plan registrant or owning or leasing real property within this State used directly in the transportation of freight or persons.

(B) ‘Commercial motor vehicle’ means a motor propelled vehicle used for the transportation of property on a public highway ~~with a gross vehicle weight of greater than twenty-six thousand pounds~~, except for farm vehicles using FM tags as allowed by the Department of Motor Vehicles.

(C) ‘Large commercial motor vehicle’ means a commercial motor vehicle with a gross vehicle weight of greater than twenty-six thousand pounds that is registered under the International Registration Plan or used on a highway for the transportation of property.

(D) ‘Small commercial motor vehicle’ means a commercial motor vehicle with a gross vehicle weight of less than or equal to twenty-six thousand pounds that is registered under

the International Registration Plan or used on a highway for the transportation of property.

~~(C)~~(E) ‘Highway’ means all public roads, highways, streets, and ways in this State, whether within a municipality or outside of a municipality.

~~(D)~~(F) ‘Person’ means any individual, corporation, firm, partnership, company, or association, and includes a guardian, trustee, executor, administrator, receiver, conservator, or a person acting in a fiduciary capacity.

~~(E)~~(G) ‘Semitrailers’ means every vehicle with or without motive power, other than a pole trailer, designed for carrying property and for being drawn by a motor vehicle and constructed so that a part of its weight and of its load rests upon or is carried by another vehicle.

~~(F)~~(H) ‘Trailers’ means every vehicle with or without motive power, other than a pole trailer, designed for carrying property and for being drawn by a motor vehicle and constructed so that no part of its weight rests upon the towing vehicle.

~~(G)~~(I) ‘Bus’ means every motor vehicle designed for carrying more than sixteen passengers and used for the transportation of persons, for compensation, other than a taxicab or intercity bus.

(J) ‘South Carolina apportionment factor’ means the ratio of miles operated by a fleet of vehicles in South Carolina to the miles operated by the fleet of vehicles everywhere, which is used to apportion the registration fees of the fleet under the International Registration Plan.

Section 12-37-2815. The provisions contained in this article do not apply to small commercial motor vehicles that must be licensed, registered, and pay ad valorem taxes as otherwise provided by law.

Section 12-37-2820. (A) The Department of Revenue Motor Vehicles annually shall assess, equalize, and apportion the valuation of all large commercial motor vehicles and buses of motor carriers registered for use in this State under the International Registration Plan or otherwise pursuant to Section 56-3-190. The valuation must be based on fair market value for the motor vehicles and an assessment ratio of nine and one-half percent as provided by Section 12-43-220(g). Fair market value is determined by depreciating the gross capitalized cost of each motor carrier’s large commercial motor vehicle, or bus by an

Commented [JP1]: Commercial vehicles must be defined as “small” and “large” for the purposes of administration.

Note: The “road use fee” will only apply to large commercial vehicles and buses.

Commented [JP2]: The number of miles a fleet travels in South Carolina.

This methodology is used for apportioning Interstate fleets’ property taxes, fuel taxes (IFTA) and registration fees (IRP).

Commented [JP3]: Small commercial vehicles (under 26,000 lbs.) will continue to pay property taxes.

annual percentage depreciation allowance down to ten percent of the cost as follows:

(1) Year One	--	.90
(2) Year Two	--	.80
(3) Year Three	--	.65
(4) Year Four	--	.50
(5) Year Five	--	.35
(6) Year Six	--	.25
(7) Year Seven	--	.20
(8) Year Eight	--	.15
(9) Year Nine	--	.10

(B) 'Gross capitalized cost', as used in this section, means the original cost upon acquisition for income tax purposes, not to include taxes, interest, or cab customizing.

~~Section 12-37-2830. The value of a motor carrier's large commercial motor vehicles and buses subject to property taxes road use fees in this State must be determined based on the ratio of total mileage operated within this State during the preceding calendar year to the total mileage of its fleet operated within and without this State during the same preceding calendar year according to the South Carolina apportionment factor for the fleet of which the commercial vehicle is a part.~~

~~Section 12-37-2840. (A) Motor carriers must file an annual property tax return with the Department of Revenue no later than June 30 for the preceding calendar year and remit one half of the tax due or the entire tax due as stated on the return. If the motor carrier fails to pay either one half of the tax due or the entire tax due as of June 30, the department must issue a proposed assessment for the entire tax to the motor carrier. The tax as shown in the proposed assessment must be paid in full by cashier's check, money order, or cash within thirty days of the issuance of the proposed assessment, or the taxpayer may appeal the proposed assessment within thirty days using the procedures provided in subarticle 1, Article 5, Chapter 60 of this title.~~

~~(B)(1) If one half of the tax is remitted on or before June 30, the remaining one half of the tax due must be paid to the Department of Revenue on or before December 31 of that year. If the motor carrier fails to remit the remaining tax due pursuant to this section, the department shall issue a proposed assessment to the motor carrier.~~

~~(2) The tax shown in the proposed assessment must be paid in full by cashier's check, money order, or cash or appealed~~

Commented [JP4]: For implementation and administration of the road use fee, responsibility will be transferred from the Department of Revenue to the Department of Motor Vehicles to create a one-stop shop.

Road use fee can be administered in conjunction with the current IRP process/program administered through SCDMV.

Road Use Fees will be calculated the same way property taxes currently are. (Based on the fair market value of the vehicle, including the depreciation factor laid out in current law, the apportioned miles traveled by each vehicle in South Carolina, a millage assessment, and a 9.5% assessment ratio.)

Commented [JP5]: Valuation is based on the miles traveled in South Carolina, which is the same methodology currently used by commercial motor vehicles for property tax purposes and IFTA/IRP.

~~within thirty days of the issuance of the proposed assessment. The taxpayer may appeal the proposed assessment using the procedures provided in subarticle 1, Article 5, Chapter 60 of this title.~~

~~(C) If a motor carrier fails to timely file the return as required by this section, the department shall issue a proposed assessment which assumes all mileage of the motor carrier's fleet was driven within this State. A taxpayer may appeal this proposed assessment using the procedures provided in subarticle 1, Article 5, Chapter 60 of this title.~~

~~(D) A twenty five percent penalty must be added to the property tax due if the motor carrier fails to file a return or pay any tax due, including the one half of the tax due on June 30, as required by this section. The penalty must be applied the day after the date that the return was due to be filed or the tax was due to be paid. This penalty is instead of all other penalties and interest required by law, except those provided in Section 12-54-44.~~

~~(E) If the motor carrier fails to remit the tax due within thirty days of receipt of the proposed assessment and the taxpayer fails to appeal the proposed assessment as provided in subsection (B), the department shall assess the tax. Tax due pursuant to this section is subject to the collection procedures provided in Chapter 54, of this title, except that the penalty provisions of Section 12-54-43 do not apply A motor carrier registering a large commercial motor vehicle or bus must pay the road use fee due on the vehicle at the time and in the manner the person pays the registration fees on the vehicle pursuant to Section 56-3-660. A person choosing to pay registration fees on a large commercial motor vehicle or bus in quarterly installments pursuant to Section 56-3-660 also must pay the road use fee on the vehicle in the same quarterly installments.~~

~~Section 12-37-2842. (A) The Department of Motor Vehicles, at the time of first registration by a motor carrier as defined in this article, shall notify the registrant of the Department of Revenue's registration and filing requirements and supply the required registration forms.~~

~~(B) The motor carrier must register with the Department of Revenue within thirty days following the year in which the vehicle or bus was first registered for operation in South Carolina.~~

~~(C) A motor carrier must notify the Department of Revenue, on forms supplied by the department, of a motor vehicle or bus that is disposed of before December 31.~~

Commented [JP6]: Road use fees are paid in conjunction with the carrier's current registration fee schedule and are based on the vehicles currently in the carrier's fleet that are being registered.

Fees can still be paid online and quarterly in most cases.

Section 12-37-2850. Beginning on January 1, 2019, the Department of Revenue Motor Vehicles shall assess annually the ~~taxes~~ road use fee due on large commercial motor vehicles and buses based on the value determined in Section 12-37-2820 and an average millage for all purposes statewide for the preceding calendar year and shall publish the average millage for the preceding year by ~~June 1~~ July first of each year. The Department of Revenue, in consultation with the Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office, shall calculate the millage to be used to calculate the road use fee by June first of each year for the following calendar year. The ~~taxes~~ road use fee assessed must be paid to the Department of Revenue no later than December 31 of each year and may be made in two equal installments Motor Vehicles, in addition to the registration fees required pursuant to Sections 56-3-660 and 56-3-670, at the time and in the manner that the registration fees on the vehicle are paid pursuant to Sections 56-3-660 and 56-3-670. Distribution of the ~~taxes~~ fees paid must be made by the ~~State Treasurer's~~ Office of the State Treasurer based on the distribution formula ~~contained~~ provided in ~~Section 12-37-2870~~ Sections 12-37-2865 and 12-37-2870.

Commented [JP7]: Implementation date must begin on the first day of a calendar year (2019) for ease of administration and to provide enough time for SCDMV to properly prepare. The authority to calculate millage rates will remain under DOR.

Section 12-37-2860. (A) In addition to the property tax exemptions allowed pursuant to Section 12-37-220, one hundred percent of the fair market value of semitrailers and trailers as defined in Section 12-37-2810, and commonly used in combination with a large commercial motor vehicle, as defined pursuant to Section 12-37-2810, is exempt from property tax.

Commented [JP8]: Maintains current exemption from property taxes for semitrailers and trailers.

(B) Instead of the any property ~~taxes~~ tax and the registration requirements ~~contained~~ provided in Sections 56-3-110 and 56-3-700 on semitrailers and trailers of motor carriers as defined in Section 12-37-2810, and commonly used in combination with a large commercial motor vehicle, a one-time fee payable to the Department of Motor Vehicles in the amount of ~~eighty-seven dollars~~ is ~~due~~ imposed on all semitrailers and trailers currently registered and subsequently on each semitrailer and trailer before being placed in service.

Commented [JP9]: Maintains current \$87 Permanent Tag for trailers and semitrailers.

(C) The fee imposed pursuant to subsection (B) and the registration requirements of this article are in lieu of any local road use fee, registration fees, or any other vehicle related fee imposed by a political subdivision of this State on a trailer or semitrailer.

Commented [JP10]: Clarifies "exemption" from local fees for trailers and semitrailers.

~~(B)~~(D) Twelve dollars of the one-time fee must be distributed to the Department of ~~Revenue~~ Motor Vehicles and may be retained by the Department of ~~Revenue~~ Motor Vehicles and expended in budgeted operations to record and administer the fee. The remaining seventy-five dollars of the fee must be distributed based on the distribution formula ~~contained~~ provided in ~~Section~~ Sections 12-37-2865 and 12-37-2870, and must occur by the fifteenth day of the month following the month in which the fees are collected.

~~(C)~~ The fee required by this section is due on or before March 31, 1998, for the initial registration.

~~(D)~~(E)The Department of Motor Vehicles shall design a permanent tag for display on the exterior of the rear of the trailer or semitrailer in a conspicuous place.

(F) If the apportioned registration fees of a large commercial motor vehicle or bus and the road use fees for large commercial motor vehicles required under this chapter are equal to or exceed four hundred dollars, the fees may be remitted to the Department of Motor Vehicles quarterly provided that each installment is made online. A motor carrier who fails to make a quarterly payment on a timely basis may no longer make installment payments and must remit to the department the balance of the fees owed for any previous calendar year before the Department of Motor Vehicles will renew registration for the current calendar year. A motor carrier that opts out of installment payments must make full payment of fees at the time of registration.

Section 12-37-2865. Seventy-five percent of the revenues from the road use fee assessed pursuant to Section 12-37-2850, and the one-time fee assessed pursuant to Section 12-37-2860 must be distributed by the State Treasurer as provided in Section 12-37-2870. Distributions must be made by the last day of the next month succeeding the month in which the fee is paid. The remaining twenty-five percent must be credited to the Infrastructure Maintenance Trust Fund to be used to finance expansion and improvements to existing mainline interstates.

Section 12-37-2870. The distribution of the fee revenues required to be distributed pursuant to Section 12-37-2865 for each county must be determined on the ratio of total federal and state highway miles within each county during the preceding calendar year to the total federal and state highway miles within all counties of this State during the same preceding calendar year. The county must distribute

Commented [JP11]: Currently, motor carriers pay registration (IRP for interstate carriers) and property taxes annually with the option to make quarterly payments.

Provisions are included so motor carriers can continue this, and IRP and Road Use Fees can be made quarterly online.

However, if a carrier is unable to make payments in a timely manner, they lose this option and must remit all fees to SCDMV at the time of registration.

Commented [JP12]: 75% of the fees collected will go to the Counties.

Commented [JP13]: The remaining 25% will go to the Infrastructure Maintenance Trust Fund (IMTF) for use on existing interstates.

the revenue from the payment-in-lieu of taxes received pursuant to this section within thirty days of its receipt to every governmental entity levying a property tax in the manner set forth below. For each governmental entity levying a property tax, the entire assessed value of the taxable property within its boundaries and the county area must be multiplied by the millage rate imposed by the governmental entity. That figure constitutes the numerator for that governmental entity. The total of the numerators for all property tax levying entities within the county area constitutes the denominator. The numerator for each governmental entity must be divided by the denominator. The resulting percentage must be multiplied by the ~~payment in lieu of tax~~ fee revenue received pursuant to this section and that amount distributed to the general fund of the appropriate governmental entity. The distribution of taxes and fees paid must be made by the last day of the next month succeeding the month in which the taxes and fees were paid.

Section 12-37-2880. (A) In addition to the property tax exemptions allowed pursuant to Section 12-37-220, one hundred percent of the fair market value of all large commercial motor vehicles and buses registered for use in this State under the International Registration Plan or otherwise pursuant to Section 56-3-190, is exempt from property tax and is instead subject to the road use fee imposed pursuant to this article.

Commented [JP14]: Clarifies that all large commercial motor vehicles and buses must pay road use fees instead of property taxes.

(B) The ~~ad valorem taxes authorized~~ road use fee imposed by this article ~~are~~ is in lieu of all ~~other~~ ad valorem taxes upon the large commercial motor vehicles or buses of motor carriers, and any road use or other vehicle-related fees imposed by a political subdivision of this State if registered for use in this State under the International Registration Plan. The ~~fee in lieu of property taxes and registration requirements authorized by this article are in lieu of all other ad valorem taxes upon trailers and semitrailers of motor carriers.~~

Commented [JP15]: Exempts large commercial vehicles and buses registered under the IRP from locally imposed "road use fees."

~~Section 12-37-2890. (A) Upon request by the Department of Revenue, and after the time period for all appeals of tax due is exhausted, the Department of Motor Vehicles shall suspend the driver's license and vehicle registration of a person that fails to file or pay a motor carrier property tax on a vehicle, pursuant to this article. The request to suspend must be an electronic notification from the Department of Revenue to the Department of Motor Vehicles. Before~~

notification is sent to the Department of Motor Vehicles, the Department of Revenue shall notify the delinquent taxpayer by certified letter of the pending suspension and of the steps necessary to prevent the suspension from being entered on the taxpayer's driving and registration records. The department shall allow thirty days for payment of taxes before notifying the Department of Motor Vehicles to suspend the driver's license and vehicle registration.

~~(B) Notwithstanding the provisions of Sections 56-1-460 and 56-9-500, a charge of driving under suspension when the suspension is solely for failure to file or pay a motor carrier property tax or the reinstatement fee required for the property tax does not require proof of financial responsibility. A person is not subject to a custodial arrest solely for being under suspension pursuant to this section. Upon conviction of a violation of this section, the taxpayer is subject to:~~

- ~~(1) for a first offense a fine not to exceed fifty dollars;~~
- ~~(2) for a second offense a fine not to exceed two hundred fifty dollars; and~~
- ~~(3) for a third or subsequent offense under this section, the penalty is a fine not to exceed five hundred dollars or imprisonment not to exceed thirty days, or both.~~

~~(C) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (A) and (B) of this section or the provisions of Section 56-1-460, a charge of driving under suspension issued solely as a result of this section must be dismissed if the taxpayer provides proof on the taxpayer's court date that the personal property taxes on the vehicle which resulted in the charge being issued have been paid.~~

~~(D) Before the reinstatement of a driver's license or vehicle registration suspended due to a violation of this section, a fee of fifty dollars must be paid to the Department of Motor Vehicles. The Department of Motor Vehicles may retain revenues generated by payment of the reinstatement fees pursuant to this section for use in defraying costs associated with suspension and reinstatement actions pursuant to this section. Fees collected in excess of actual departmental direct costs related to suspension and reinstatement actions pursuant to this section must be deposited to the credit of the general fund of the State at the end of each fiscal year."~~

B. Section 56-3-376 of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

"Section 56-3-376. (A) All vehicles except those vehicles designated in Section 56-3-780 are designated as distinct

classifications and must be assigned an annual registration period as follows:

(1) Classification (1). Vehicles for which the biennial registration fee is one-hundred sixty dollars or more. The Department of Motor Vehicles may register and license a vehicle for which the biennial registration fee is one-hundred sixty dollars or more or for a semiannual or one-half year upon application to the department by the owner and the payment of one-fourth of the specified biennial fee. Biennial registrations and licenses expire at midnight on the last day of the twenty-fourth month for the period for which they were issued. Semiannual or half-year registrations and licenses expire at midnight of the sixth month for the period for which they were issued and no person shall drive, move, or operate a vehicle upon a highway after the expiration of the registration and license until the vehicle is registered and licensed for the then current period. Trucks, truck tractors, or road tractors with an empty or unloaded weight of over five thousand pounds or less, or gross vehicle weight of eight thousand pounds or less also must be placed in this classification but may not be registered for less than a full biennial period.

(2) Classification (2). Other vehicles. All other vehicles except those vehicles described in classification (1) and (3) of this section are assigned a staggered biennial registration which expires on the last day of the month for the period for which they were issued.

(3) Classification (3). Large commercial motor vehicles and buses registered by motor carriers, as defined in Section 12-37-2810, are assigned a staggered annual registration which expires on the last day of the month for the period for which they were issued.

(B) Notwithstanding the registration periods provided in this section, upon appropriate notice, the department may revise the established renewal dates to allow renewals to be assigned an expiration date pursuant to a staggered monthly basis.”

C. Section 56-3-120(5) of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“(5) a trailer or semitrailer of a motor carrier commonly used in combination with a large commercial motor vehicle, as defined in Section 12-37-2810, for which trailer or semitrailer the fee in lieu of taxes and registration requirements has been paid fee imposed pursuant to Section

Commented [JP16]: Maintains a staggered annual registration date for motor carriers.

12-37-2860 is paid and applicable registration requirements provided pursuant to Article 23, Chapter 37, Title 12, are met, and a distinctive permanent plate has been issued pursuant to Section 12-37-2860.”

Commented [JP17]: Clarifies and maintains the current exemption of registration & licensing requirements for trailers and semitrailers.

D. Section 56-3-610 of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“Section 56-3-610. (A) Except as provided in subsection (B), the owner of every motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, and special mobile equipment vehicle required to be registered and licensed under this chapter shall pay to the Department of Motor Vehicles at the time of registering and licensing the vehicle and biennially after that time registration and license fees as set forth in this article.

(B) A large commercial motor vehicle or bus on which is imposed the road use fee provided pursuant to Article 23, Chapter 37, Title 12 is required to be registered and licensed annually pursuant to this chapter and the scheduled fees adjusted as provided pursuant to Section 56-3-660(E).”

Commented [JP18]: Continue annual registrations for motor carriers and allow road use fees to be treated the same way registration fees are currently treated.

E. Section 56-3-660(A) of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“Section 56-3-660. (A) The determination of gross vehicle weight to register and license self-propelled property carrying vehicles is the empty weight of the vehicle or combination of vehicles and the heaviest load to be transported by the vehicle or combination of vehicles as declared by the registered owner. All determinations of weight must be made in units of one thousand pounds or major fraction of one thousand pounds. The declared gross vehicle weight applies to all self-propelled property carrying vehicles operating in tandem with trailers or semitrailers except that the gross weight of a trailer or semitrailer is not required to be included when the operation is to be in tandem with a self-propelled property carrying vehicle licensed for six thousand pounds or less gross weight, and the gross vehicle weight of the combination does not exceed nine thousand pounds. The Department of Motor Vehicles may register and license a ~~vehicle of this classification~~ small commercial motor vehicle, as defined in Section 12-37-2810, for which the biennial registration and license fee is one-hundred and sixty dollars or more for an annual or one-year period beginning on April first and ending on March thirty-first of the next year upon application to the department by the owner and the payment of one-half the specified biennial fee or for a semiannual or one-half year

beginning on April first and ending on September thirtieth of the same year upon application to the department by the owner and the payment of the appropriate fees. The registration and license fee for small commercial motor vehicles in this classification which are registered for the remaining twenty-four months or less of the twenty-four month biennial period or for the eleven months or less of the twelve-month year ending on March thirty-first or the remaining five months or less for the one-half period ending on September thirtieth is the proportionate part of the specified biennial fee for the remainder of the twenty-four month period or year or one-half year based on one twenty-fourth of the specified twenty-four-month fee for each month or part of a month remaining in the biennial registration period or license year or one-half year. ~~No~~ An proportionate fee may not be reduced lower than ten dollars. A person making application for a registration and license for a motor vehicle of this classification shall declare the true unloaded or empty weight of the vehicle.”

F. Section 56-3-660 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding an appropriately lettered subsection to read:

“() Fees for licensing and registration, and fees imposed pursuant to Article 23, Chapter 37, Title 12, may be credited or prorated as prescribed by the Department of Motor Vehicles.”

Commented [JP19]: Currently, registration fees for trucks added to an existing fleet midyear are prorated. If a carrier gets rid of one truck and purchases another, the tag can be transferred to the new vehicle. SCDMV will be allowed to prorate and credit road use fees to appropriately when a carrier makes a change to the fleet.

G. Section 56-3-660(E) of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“(E) The department may register ~~an apportionable a large commercial motor vehicle, as defined in Section 12-37-2810,~~ for the payment of one-half of this State’s portion of the license and road fee for a vehicle whose portion of the license and road fee owed to this State exceeds ~~eight~~ four hundred dollars. The department may require any information necessary to complete the transaction.”

Commented [JP20]: Allows motor carriers to remit payment of road use fees semi-annually if fees are \$400 or more. *(This is done in conjunction with current registration fee schedule.)*

H. Section 58-23-620 of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“Section 58-23-620. (A) ~~No city, town,~~ A municipality or county in this State ~~shall~~ may not impose a license fee or license tax upon a holder of a certificate A or a certificate B, and ~~no city, town,~~ a municipality or county ~~shall~~ may not impose a license fee or license tax on the holder of a

certificate E or a certificate F, Certificate of Compliance, or a common or contract motor carrier of property, except the ~~city or town~~ municipality of ~~such~~ the carrier's residence or the location of ~~his~~ the carrier's principal place of business. However, the fee required of a holder of a certificate C is in addition to any license tax or license fee charged by a municipality.

(B) If a municipality or county imposes a license fee or license tax pursuant to subsection (A), the fee or tax in the case of any certificate holder or common or contract motor carrier of property which operates its vehicles both within and without this State, must be apportioned in the ratio that the miles traveled by the vehicles operated by the certificate holder in this State bears to miles traveled by those vehicles in all states."

I. Article 21, Chapter 37, Title 12 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

"Section 12-37-2600. Motor carriers, as defined in Section 12-37-2810, are exempt from ad valorem taxes imposed pursuant to this chapter on large commercial motor vehicles and buses."

J. Section 12-37-2610 of the 1976 Code, as last amended by Act 87 of 2015, is further amended to read:

"Section 12-37-2610. The tax year for licensed motor vehicles begins with the last day of the month in which a registration required by Section 56-3-110 is issued and ends on the last day of the month in which the registration expires or is due to expire. ~~No~~ A registration may not be issued for motor vehicles until the ad valorem tax is paid for the year for which the registration is to be issued. ~~Motor vehicles registered under the International Registration Plan may pay ad valorem property taxes on a semiannual basis~~ Large commercial motor vehicles and buses, as defined in Section 12-37-2810, must pay road use fees pursuant to Article 23, Chapter 37, Title 12 in lieu of ad valorem property taxes. The provisions of this section do not apply to the transfer of motor vehicle registrations as specified in Section 12-37-2675 or to sales of motor vehicles by a licensed motor vehicle dealer. Notice of the sales must be furnished to the Department of Motor Vehicles by the dealer, along with other documents necessary for the registration and licensing of the vehicle concerned. The notice must be received by the

Commented [JP21]: This puts local business license fees in line with all other motor carrier related fees (IRP,IFTA/Road Use Fee) and require these fees to be apportioned on a fleet's South Carolina mileage.

Department of Motor Vehicles as a prerequisite to the registration and licensing of the vehicle and must include the name and address of the purchaser, the vehicle identification number, and the year and model of the vehicle. The notice must be an original and one copy, and the copy must be provided by the department to the auditor of the county in which the vehicle is taxable. All ad valorem taxes on a vehicle are due and payable one hundred twenty days from the date of purchase. The notice and the time in which to pay the tax applies to motor vehicles that are serviced and delivered by a licensed motor vehicle dealer for the benefit of an out-of-state dealer.”

K. The first paragraph of Section 12-37-2650 of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“The auditor shall prepare a tax notice of all vehicles owned by the same person and licensed at the same time for each tax year within the two-year licensing period. A notice must describe the motor vehicle by name, model, and identification number. The notice must set forth the assessed value of the vehicle, the millage, the taxes due on each vehicle, and the license period or tax year. The notice must be delivered to the county treasurer who must collect or receive payment of the taxes. One copy of the notice must be in the form of a bill or statement for the taxes due on the motor vehicle and, when practical, the treasurer shall mail that copy to the owner or person having control of the vehicle. When the tax and all other charges included on the tax bill have been paid, the treasurer shall issue the taxpayer a paid receipt. The receipt or a copy may be delivered by the taxpayer to the Department of Motor Vehicles with the application for the motor vehicle registration. A record of the payment of the tax must be retained by the treasurer. The auditor shall maintain a separate duplicate for motor vehicles. ~~No~~ A registration may not be issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles unless the application is accompanied by the receipt, a copy of the notification required by Section 12-37-2610 or notice from the county treasurer, by other means satisfactory to the Department of Motor Vehicles, of payment of the tax. ~~Motor vehicles registered under the International Registration Plan may pay ad valorem property taxes on a semiannual basis, and a proportional receipt must be issued by the treasurer subject to penalties in Section 12-37-2730. Large commercial motor vehicles and buses, as defined in Section 12-37-2810, must~~

pay road use fees pursuant to Article 23, Chapter 37, Title 12 in lieu of ad valorem property taxes. The treasurer, tax collector, or other official charged with the collection of ad valorem property taxes in each county may delegate the collection of motor vehicle taxes to banks or banking institutions, if each institution assigns, hypothecates, or pledges to the county, as security for the collection, federal funds or federal, state, or municipal securities in an amount adequate to prevent any loss to the county from any cause. Each institution shall remit the taxes collected daily to the county official charged with the collections. The receipt given to the taxpayer, in addition to the information required in this section and by Section 12-45-70, must contain the name and office of the treasurer or tax collector of the county and must also show the name of the banking institution to which payment was made.”

L.(1) Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary within this SECTION, a person who registers a vehicle for use in this State pursuant to Article 23, Chapter 37, Title 12, as amended by this act, must register his vehicle during calendar year 2019 and is required to pay the road fees calculated based on the fair market value of the vehicle as specified in Sections 12-37-2820 and 12-37-2850 at the time the vehicle’s registration fees are paid.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions in Section 12-37-2865(B) and (C), as contained in this SECTION, to the contrary, during calendar year 2019 the first four hundred thousand dollars of fee revenue collected pursuant to Section 12-37-2865 must be retained by the Department of Motor Vehicles to defray programming costs.

(3) The initial millage required by Section 12-37-2850 must be calculated on or before June 1, 2018.

M. This SECTION takes effect January 1, 2019, except that the Department of Revenue, in consultation with the Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office, shall calculate the millage to be used to calculate the road use fee provided in Section 12-37-2850 by July 1, 2018.