

Moving
PennDOT
Forward

Driver and Vehicle Services Update

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pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Josh Shapiro, Governor

Mike Carroll, Acting Secretary

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SPECIAL EDITION

Act 165, signed into law on November 4, 2016, allows PennDOT to suspend Pennsylvania registrations for individuals who did not pay tolls or related fines received in Pennsylvania.

Act 112 has amended Section 1380 to allow the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission to request that PennDOT suspend a vehicle registration until the unpaid fees are addressed. PennDOT will issue registration suspensions for individuals passing through tolling locations without paying the appropriate fees, when a vehicle has accumulated either:

- Four or more unpaid PA toll invoices; or,
- PA toll invoices, fees, and costs exceed \$250.

The Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission will inform the vehicle owner or registrant of the unpaid amounts, and provide the opportunity to pay those amounts, or to be heard in an administrative proceeding. If that effort yields no results, the Turnpike Commission can request that PennDOT suspend the registration of the vehicle until the monies due are paid.

Act 165 also allows PennDOT, where reciprocal agreements with other states are in place, to request those states take appropriate action on the registration of any vehicle registered in their state when that vehicle owner or registrant owes at least the minimum in unpaid tolls in Pennsylvania. Further, it allows those states to request the suspension of registrations of Pennsylvania vehicles owing unpaid tolls and fines in their states.

Act 112 amended PA. C. S. Title 74 (Transportation), Section 8102 to amend or add the following definitions:

“Electronic Toll Collection.” A system of collecting tolls or charges that is capable of charging an account holder or a registered vehicle owner for the prescribed toll based on the automatic identification and classification of vehicles using electronic systems. The term includes a system of open road tolls, video tolls or other similar structural or technological enhancements pertaining to tolls.

“Electronic Toll Collection Device.” A piece of mechanical or electrical equipment used for electronic toll collection.

“Flat Video Toll.” A toll rate that does not vary based on a video image which is charged to an account when the commission is able to match a license plate image to an account in good standing.

“Toll Collection System.” A vehicle sensor, placed in a location to work in conjunction with a toll collection facility, which automatically produces a videotape or photograph, microphotograph or other recorded image of a vehicle, at the time the vehicle travels through a tolling point. The term includes any other technology which identifies a vehicle by photographic, mechanical, electronic or other method.

“Video Toll.” A toll based on a vehicle’s license plate image when a valid electronic collection device is not read as the vehicle travels through a tolling point.

Act 112 further amended PA. C. S. Title 75 (Vehicles) Section 1332(b) to state it is unlawful to display on any vehicle a registration plate in which is so dirty as to prevent the reading of the number or letters at a reasonable distance; is illegible, obscured, covered, or otherwise obstructed in any manner in which inhibits the proper operation of an automated red light enforcement system or any other automated enforcement system or electronic toll collection system or makes it unreadable from a reasonable distance or inhibits the visibility of the issuing jurisdiction. It also prohibits the use of tinted plate covers. Additionally, the Section added that nothing shall be construed to prohibit a vehicle from being affixed with a registration plate frame that minimally outlines the registration plate in such a manner that the registration plate’s number and issuing jurisdiction is identifiable by an automated enforcement system or law enforcement.

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