

Subject Vehicle registration reimbursement
Authors Hansen and others
Analyst Matt Burress (matt.burress@house.mn)
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Overview

This bill provides for reimbursement to motor vehicle owners who are found to have overpaid vehicle registration taxes and fees since the implementation of the new information technology system known as the Minnesota Licensing and Registration System (MNLARS). It requires analysis of historical transactions as well as ongoing transaction recordkeeping, directs the Department of Public Safety to perform outreach efforts (including establishing a call center), requires reimbursements to be made, and appropriates an amount to be determined from the general fund to cover reimbursement costs. (Note, this summary does not identify several deadlines for agency action that are dates in the past.)

Background. A 2018 report from the Office of the Legislative Auditor had identified inaccuracies in tax calculations and collections following rollout of MNLARS. One of the findings from that report was that “while MNLARS generally calculated certain types of transactions correctly, inaccurate vehicle registration data within MNLARS and user errors resulted in some owners of similar vehicles being charged different tax amounts.”¹

Summary

Section	Description
1	<p>Vehicle registration overpayment; reimbursement; appropriation Requires vehicle transaction analysis, reporting, outreach, and reimbursements. Appropriates funds. Effective the day following enactment.</p> <p>Subd. 1. Vehicle registration transaction data; reimbursement eligibility. Directs the Department of Public Safety to analyze a range of motor vehicle transactions for vehicle owner overpayment of registration taxes and fees. Makes owners who overpaid eligible for reimbursements. Requires reporting to the MNLARS Steering Committee (which was established in 2018 legislation as part of supplemental funding for MNLARS).</p>

¹ Office of the Legislative Auditor, “MNLARS Transaction Accuracy,” 25 Sept. 2018, p. 1.

Section	Description
	<p>Subd. 2. Public outreach; call center. Directs the department to perform outreach activities that inform motorists about possible registration tax and fee overpayment. Requires a phone number where vehicle owners can find out about eligibility for a reimbursement.</p>
	<p>Subd. 3. Reimbursement amount; calculation; payment. Directs the department to identify reimbursement amounts, inform the MNLARS Steering Committee, and commence making payments.</p>
	<p>Subd. 4. Appropriation. Appropriates an amount to be determined from the general fund for fiscal year 2019 to pay for the reimbursements, including a not yet specified portion for administrative costs. Cancels any remaining money to the general fund.</p>



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