

Judiciary Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No: SB-261 / [Bill Status](#) / [Public Hearing Testimony](#)

AN ACT CONCERNING TRANSFER OF A MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION
Title: UPON THE DEATH OF THE OWNER OF THE VEHICLE.

Vote Date: 3/30/2026

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 2/27/2026

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Judiciary Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

With the intent to increase the effectiveness of transferring title of motor vehicles upon an owner's death to their designated beneficiary, this bill seeks to extend the sixty (60) day limitation by allowing designated beneficiaries to submit an application for the issuance of a certificate of title and a certificate of registration for a motor vehicle up until the expiration of the vehicle's registration period. By extending the application period, the transfer process becomes more accessible to those designated beneficiaries and delays the necessity of a probate case.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Antonio Guerrero, Commissioner, Department of Motor Vehicles, testified in opposition to the bill. He stated that the proposed extension could potentially allow for a deceased owner's name to remain on the motor vehicle for years, leading to vehicle information being out of date. He further stated that this would lead to unintended consequences including complications with insurance coverage, complications with traffic enforcement, and ultimately public safety.

Hon. Beverly K. Streit, Probate Court Administrator, Office of the Probate Court Administrator, testified in opposition to the bill. She stated that the current version of the statute is consistent with probate statutes and provides for a reasonable amount of time for the designated beneficiaries to exercise the transfer process. She further stated that the proposed extension might create legal disputes over the proper ownership of the vehicle

because it directly conflicts with the timeline of certain probate laws and increases the chances of duplication or inconsistent transfers.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Louann Cook testified in support of the bill.

Scott D. Rosenberg, Attorney, Law Office of Scott D. Rosenberg, testified in support of the bill. He stated that the sixty (60) day limitation provided by the current version of the statute is too strict and significantly reduces the effectiveness of the transfer process. Specifically, he stated that it is common for the existence of the beneficiary designation to be discovered only after the sixty (60) days have passed and that even if the beneficiaries initiate the process within the time limitation, certain barriers exist outside of their control that delays the completion of the process within the prescribed time limit.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None expressed.

Reported by: Tenzin Rabjam

Date: April 6, 2026