



General Assembly

February Session, 2026

Raised Bill No. 261

LCO No. 1694



Referred to Committee on JUDICIARY

Introduced by:
(JUD)

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

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 14-16 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

3 (a) A motor vehicle registration expires upon transfer of ownership
4 of the motor vehicle. The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall enter
5 such expiration in the records of the Department of Motor Vehicles only
6 when the transferor cancels his or her registration for such motor vehicle
7 in accordance with procedures established by the commissioner or
8 when the transferee reregisters such motor vehicle with the department,
9 whichever occurs first.

10 (b) If a motor vehicle is owned by one owner who is a natural person,
11 such owner may designate, in writing in a space provided on the
12 certificate of registration for such motor vehicle, a beneficiary who shall
13 assume ownership of such motor vehicle after the death of the owner
14 and upon the making of an application pursuant to this subsection. The

15 owner making such designation shall have all rights of ownership of
16 such motor vehicle during the owner's life and the beneficiary shall have
17 no rights in such motor vehicle until such time as the owner dies and an
18 application is made pursuant to this subsection. Not later than sixty
19 days after the death of the owner or prior to the end of the registration
20 period, whichever is longer, the beneficiary may make application to the
21 commissioner for the issuance of a certificate of title and a certificate of
22 registration for such motor vehicle in the beneficiary's name. Such
23 application shall be accompanied by: (1) The original certificate of
24 registration in which the beneficiary is designated pursuant to this
25 subsection; (2) a death certificate for the deceased owner; (3) such proof
26 of the beneficiary's identity as the commissioner may require; (4) the
27 transfer fee required by subsection (c) of this section; and (5) any
28 applicable fees for registration, title and number plates as required
29 under this chapter and chapter 247. If the beneficiary fails to make such
30 application within the time period specified in this subsection, the
31 beneficiary shall have no right to obtain ownership of and title to such
32 motor vehicle under this subsection after the expiration of such time
33 period. The right of the beneficiary to obtain ownership of and title to
34 such motor vehicle under this subsection shall be subordinate to the
35 rights of each lienholder whose security interest in such motor vehicle
36 is duly recorded pursuant to chapter 247. The commissioner may adopt
37 regulations, in accordance with chapter 54, to implement the provisions
38 of this subsection.

39 (c) If the owner of a registered motor vehicle dies, the registration for
40 the vehicle shall, unless the vehicle is destroyed, continue in force as a
41 valid registration until the end of the registration period unless: (1)
42 Ownership of the vehicle is transferred pursuant to subsection (b) of this
43 section or by the deceased owner's executor, administrator, legatee or
44 distributee prior to the end of the registration period, in which case the
45 registration shall continue in force until the time of the transfer; or (2)
46 ownership of the vehicle is transferred to the brother, sister, father,
47 mother, child or spouse of the owner, in which case the registration

48 shall, upon the payment of a fee of twenty dollars, continue in force until
49 the end of the registration period or until the ownership is sooner
50 transferred to a person other than such a relative. If at the end of the
51 registration period the relative has not transferred ownership of the
52 vehicle and the relative applies for registration of the vehicle, the
53 registration shall not be subject to the provisions of subsection (a) of
54 section 12-71b.

55 (d) If a motor vehicle is transferred in connection with the
56 organization, reorganization or dissolution, or because of the partial
57 liquidation, of an incorporated or unincorporated business in which
58 gain or loss to the transferor is not recognized for federal income tax
59 purposes under the Internal Revenue Code and Treasury regulations
60 and rulings issued thereunder, the registration of the vehicle shall, upon
61 the payment of a fee of twenty dollars, continue in force until the end of
62 the registration period or until the registration is sooner transferred to
63 anyone outside the original business organization. If the transferee of
64 the motor vehicle has not transferred ownership of the motor vehicle to
65 anyone outside the original business organization at the end of the
66 registration period and the transferee applies for a registration for the
67 vehicle, the registration shall not be subject to the provisions of
68 subsection (a) of section 12-71b.

69 (e) A person who transfers ownership of a registered motor vehicle
70 to another may have registered in his name, upon the filing of a new
71 application and the payment of the fee required by subsection (i) of
72 section 14-49, another motor vehicle for the remainder of the registration
73 period if the gross weight of the other motor vehicle is the same or less
74 than that of the transferred motor vehicle and the registration of the
75 transferred motor vehicle has been surrendered. If the gross weight of
76 the other motor vehicle is greater than the gross weight of the motor
77 vehicle the registration of which has been surrendered, the applicant
78 shall pay, in addition to such fee, the difference between the fee paid by
79 him for the surrendered registration and the fee for the registration of
80 the motor vehicle of greater gross weight. The minimum fee for any such

81 transfer shall be twenty dollars.

82 (f) Any person may transfer an unexpired registration of a motor
83 vehicle such person owns or leases for a period of one year or more, to
84 another motor vehicle owned or so leased by such person upon payment
85 of the fee required by subsection (i) of section 14-49. Any person
86 transferring such a leased motor vehicle shall provide the commissioner
87 with evidence that the lessor has granted permission for such transfer.
88 If a transfer is made to a motor vehicle of greater gross weight or from
89 one class of registration to another, credit shall be given toward the new
90 registration in accordance with schedules established by the
91 commissioner. The commissioner may adopt regulations, in accordance
92 with chapter 54, to implement the provisions of this subsection.

93 (g) Any person who sells any motor vehicle, other than a new motor
94 vehicle, for which a certificate of title has not been issued and which is
95 not registered under the provisions of subsections (e) or (g) of section
96 14-12, shall, within forty-eight hours of the sale, certify under oath to the
97 commissioner, on blanks provided by him, such information as the
98 commissioner may require. Until the commissioner receives the
99 certification under oath required by this subsection, he shall not issue a
100 registration other than for a new motor vehicle and shall not renew a
101 registration other than for the same owner.

102 (h) Any person who violates any provision of subsection (a) of this
103 section shall be subject to the penalty provided for false statement. Any
104 person who violates any provision of subsection (g) of this section shall,
105 for a first offense, be deemed to have committed an infraction, and, for
106 a subsequent offense, shall be fined not more than five hundred dollars
107 or imprisoned not more than one year or both.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2026	14-16

Statement of Purpose:

To facilitate transfer of a motor vehicle registration to a beneficiary upon the death of the owner of the vehicle.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]