



## Legislative Updates

Laurel Whitney

The Florida Legislature has passed a wide range of laws affecting motor vehicles this year. Although many have not been signed into law as of this writing, you can expect to be seeing more about the following items.

### Motorcycles

The upcoming requirement for customers to have a motorcycle endorsement on their driver licenses prior to registering a motorcycle has been removed.

The definition of a motorcycle will include an exemption for those vehicles "in which the operator is enclosed by a cabin."

Motorcycle and moped plates must be permanently affixed horizontally and may not be adjusted or capable of being flipped up.

### Vessel fees

Vessel fees are increasing as follows:

Class A-1--Less than 12 feet in length, and all canoes to which propulsion motors have been attached, regardless of length: from \$3.50 to \$5.50.

Class A-2--12 feet or more and less than 16 feet: from \$10.50 to \$16.25.

Class 1--16 feet or more and less than 26 feet: from \$18.50 to \$28.75.

Class 2--26 feet or more and less than 40 feet: from \$50.50 to \$78.25.

Class 3--40 feet or more and less than 65 feet: from \$82.50 to \$127.75.

Class 4--65 feet or more and less than 110 feet: from \$98.50 to \$152.75.

Class 5--110 feet or more in length: from \$122.50 to \$189.75.

Applicable county fees, service fees and other charges remain the same.

### Dealer Insurance Requirements

Currently, all motor vehicle dealers are required to have a "garage" liability insurance policy. Under Senate Bill 1992, franchise motor vehicle dealers are still required to carry a garage liability insurance policy, but all other dealers may alternatively provide proof of a general liability policy coupled with a business automobile policy.

### License Plates

In addition to the standard Pinellas and Sunshine State tags, a new standard plate with the state motto, **In God We Trust**, has been approved. This is not a specialty plate and does not include any additional fees.

The **Save Our Lights** specialty plate benefits the Florida Lighthouse Association, Inc. and funds the preservation, restoration, and protection of the 29 remaining historic lighthouses in Florida.

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Proceeds from the **In God We Trust** specialty plate (not to be confused with the standard plate) shall be distributed to the In God We Trust Foundation, Inc., to fund educational scholarships for children of Florida residents who are members of the United States Armed forces, the National Guard and the United States Armed Forces Reserve and for the children of public safety employees who have died in the line of duty and are not covered by existing state law. Funds may also be distributed to other nonprofit organizations that may apply for grants and to provide educational grants to schools promoting the historical and religious significance of American and Floridian history.



The **Horse Country** license plate supports the activities of the Panama City Marine Institute, which rehabilitates troubled and delinquent youth, and is part of the Associated Marine Industries group of nonprofits. Special consideration will be given to programs using horses and other livestock.



Fees from the **Florida Tennis** license plate will be distributed to the United States Tennis Association, Florida Section Foundation, for distribution via grants to nonprofit organizations to operate tennis programs for youth and special populations, and to build, renovate, and maintain public tennis courts. As of this writing, no photo of the new plate is available

All new specialty plates are an additional \$27, plus the new plate fee.

The Bethune-Cookman College specialty plate is now

the Bethune-Cookman University plate.

Gold Star license plates can now be issued to Florida residents whose military family member was killed in action, regardless of whether or not the service member was a Floridian.

### **Motor Vehicles and Mobile Home Destruction**

This law closes loopholes whereby towed vehicles could be sold as scrap to salvage yards and metal recyclers without the actual owners' permission. It requires salvagers and recyclers to hold so-called "derelict" vehicles for 3 business days before destroying them, and to notify the DMV within 24 hours after receiving the derelict vehicle.

The bill provides definitions, enhanced penalties, and additional requirements related to the dismantling or destruction of motor vehicles and mobile homes by salvage motor vehicle dealers and secondary metals recyclers. It also authorizes the department to charge a \$3 fee for each derelict vehicle certificate, and allows for a \$2.50 service charge for county tax collectors.

### **Other related items**

Child restraint seat requirements are expanded to include motor vehicles weighing up to 26,000 pounds. The current law exempts vehicles over 5,000 lbs. from child restraint and safety belt requirements.

Law enforcement officials may now arrest any person committing any offense related to registering a vehicle in Florida.

The voluntary contribution check off list for registrations has changed. The Election Campaign Financing Trust Fund has been deleted and State Homes for Veterans and Family First have been added. Registrants can now donate \$1 to fund state homes for veterans, or to Family First, a non-profit organization that promotes and supports healthy families and marriages.

Temporary tags may no longer be displayed on a motor vehicle's rear window.

Finally, statutory language was developed to allow DHSMV to expand electronic titling and to collect vehicle owners' and registrants' e-mail addresses for notification purposes. 📧

## DMV Dealer Update

Gary W. Konopka, Region VI Administrator  
DMV Bureau of Field Operations

We have completed renewal activities for over 1800 independent and wholesale motor vehicle dealers and vehicle auctions and I thank the dealers involved for their cooperation. We did note that many dealers waited until April to complete the eight hours of continuing education which is required once every two years.

While reviewing the submitted dealer license renewals, we also noted many dealers had undergone corporate officer changes and failed to notify us. Any time a dealer who is incorporated makes a change to the corporation via [www.sunbiz.org](http://www.sunbiz.org), that change must also be communicated to the Region HQs via the dealer's assigned Compliance Officer. All such changes require a dealer to submit a modification application to us.

July 1, 2008 will soon be here and on that date the Electronic Issuance of Temporary Registrations (ETR) becomes mandatory. All temporary tags issued on that date and afterwards will be done electronically using the Print-On-Demand process. All dealers who want to continue to issue temporary tags after June 30, 2008 will have to contact one of the DMV approved vendors. Dealers will be allowed to keep a small supply of traditional temporary tags on hand for use ONLY when the Florida Real-Time Vehicle Information System or their Vendor's system is out of service but those instances will be few and far between. Another related change effective July 1, 2008 is that temporary tags will no longer be allowed to be displayed in the back window area of a vehicle. They MUST be conspicuously displayed in the rear license plate bracket. For more ETR information and for vendor information, please visit the DMV Website at <http://www.flhsmv.gov/etr/etr.html> or you can call our office at (813) 740-4288. ☎

Protect Florida's Springs plate  
is now available



## Pinellas County Tax Collector Diane Nelson Meets the Challenge

Barbara Hastings

The Pinellas County Tax Collector (PCTC) has begun using the Florida Sterling Council's Management System to enhance its



strategic planning efforts. The Sterling Management System uses three levels of assessment – the *Navigator*, the *Challenge*, and the *Governor's Sterling Award (GSA)* – to provide feedback to organizations regarding strengths and opportunities for improvement in specific categories. Those categories, known as the "Sterling Criteria," include Leadership; Strategic Planning; Customer and Market Focus; Measurement, Analysis, and Knowledge Management; Workforce Focus; Process Management; and Results.

In 2007, the PCTC participated in the *Navigator* survey, which provided us with responses from our workforce for each of the categories. This helped us craft the goals and objectives that make up Vision 2012, our 5-year strategic plan. In March of 2008, the PCTC participated in the *Challenge* assessment, which required submission of a 20-page application and a week-long site visit from seven Sterling examiners. The examiners spent time at each of our offices to verify and clarify the information provided in our application, to review our processes and performance indicators, and to talk to a broad cross-section of our workforce. We will soon receive the *Challenge* feedback report from the Sterling Council outlining our strengths in the various criteria categories, as well as those areas offering the most opportunity for improvement.

At the recent annual Sterling Conference held in Orlando, the PCTC received recognition for participating in the Sterling *Challenge* assessment. We look forward to using the feedback from the examiners' report to further refine our strategic goals as a means of continuing to provide excellent service to our customers. By using Sterling-based tools and assessments, the PCTC can ensure that we are taking proactive steps now to prepare for the multiple key challenges facing our organization in the future. ☎

# Electronic Temporary Tag Reminder

Laurel Whitney

Although you've already read about electronic temp tags (ETR) in previous issues, we want to remind you one more time that if you haven't already done so, you need to sign up for ETR by July 1<sup>st</sup>. Here's some related information we've recently learned:


- You will not be able to use your current supply of temp tags after July 1, as a new weather-proof version must be used. Refunds are not available either, so please monitor your remaining stock closely.
- Sales of new temp tag stock for manual issuance will be extremely limited.
- When manually issuing a temp tag because of system failure, you will have one business day to enter the temporary tag into the system.

For further information, contact your regional BFO office at 813-740-4288, or speak with your ETR vendor.



## Taxcollect.com has New Information for You!

Have you visited [taxcollect.com](http://taxcollect.com) lately? In our Licensed Dealers section, we added a complete listing of vehicle body types to use on your title applications.

And don't forget, our website includes the 2007 Title and Registration Guide, the 2008 dealer class schedule, and information on powers of attorney, the Electronic Filing System, TagTalk<sup>SM</sup>, and the upcoming Electronic Temporary Registration System. 

### UPCOMING CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 4 <sup>th</sup>	Closed for the 4 <sup>th</sup> of July
September 1	Closed for Labor Day
September 9	Towing and Storage Lien Seminar



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