



VERMONT LEGISLATIVE
Joint Fiscal Office

1 Baldwin Street • Montpelier, VT 05633-5701 • (802) 828-2295 • <https://jfo.vermont.gov>

Fiscal Note

May 12, 2026

Logan Mooberry, Senior Fiscal Analyst

S.326 – An act relating to miscellaneous amendments to laws relating to motor vehicles

As Recommended by the House Committee on Transportation¹ⁱ

Bill Summary

This years annual miscellaneous motor vehicle bill contains numerous amendments and technical corrections to Vermont’s vehicle statutes.

This bill is estimated to decrease Transportation Fund revenues by approximately \$200,000

Fiscal Impact

This bill is estimated to decrease Transportation Fund revenues by approximately \$200,000 and increase expenses incurred by the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) by approximately \$32,000 per year.

Background and Details

Section 3: Smugglers’ Notch Penalties

This section would increase the civil penalty issued for violation of the vehicle operation prohibition set forth under 23 V.S.A. § 1006b. The penalty is increased from \$1,000 to \$10,000 in all instances of violations and from \$2,000 to 20,000 if the violation substantially impedes the flow of traffic. The Joint Fiscal Office (JFO) cannot estimate the potential revenue generated from increased civil penalties.

Section 11: Fees for Towing

This section would increase the amount a towing service can charge the state for towing an abandoned motor vehicle from public property from \$125 to \$250. In fiscal year 2025, DMV paid for 256 vehicles to be towed. Assuming a consistent rate in future years, this section is estimated to increase DMV expenses by approximately \$32,000 per year.

Section 13: Unregistered snowmobile penalties

This section would increase the civil penalty for the operation of an unregistered snowmobile from \$135 per violation to \$450 for a first offense and \$500 for a second or subsequent offense within a three-year period. JFO cannot estimate the potential revenue generated from increased civil penalties.

¹ *The Joint Fiscal Office (JFO) is a nonpartisan legislative office dedicated to producing unbiased fiscal analysis – this fiscal note is meant to provide information for legislative consideration, not to provide policy recommendations.*

Section 15: Nondomiciled commercial driver's license

This section would establish a \$40 yearly fee for a nondomiciled commercial driver's license (CDL). In 2025, 16 nondomiciled CDLs were issued. Given the small number of applicable instances, this section is estimated to have a de minimis fiscal impact.

Section 24: Limited-Use Specialty Vehicles

This section would establish a \$26 annual registration fee for limited-use specialty vehicles. The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles would be allowed to issue a maximum of 12 of these registrations per year. Due to this limitation, the estimated fiscal impact of this section is de minimis.

Section 27: Repeal of 23 V.S.A. § 518

This section would eliminate DMV's ability to electronically issue a temporary license plate or registration to be printed by the owner of a motor vehicle. Under current law, the fee for this temporary plate or registration is \$6. In fiscal year 2025, the DMV issued approximately 33,000 electronic temporary plates, generating roughly \$200,000 in revenue for the Transportation Fund. In November 2025, the DMV stopped issuing these temporary plates and, as such, is no longer collecting revenue from this fee.

ⁱ *The full fiscal note history is available on the fiscal tab of the bill page on the General Assembly website and can be pulled up through a bill number search on the JFO page.*