

Ord. 5912

ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 21 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF MEMPHIS,  
TENNESSEE, GOVERNING MOTOR VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC, TO AMEND  
REGISTRATION FEES

**WHEREAS**, the Memphis City Council seeks to increase its motor vehicle registration fees according to TN Code Annotated 55-4-111; and the last amendment of Chapter 21 of the Code of Ordinances of Memphis, Tennessee, governing motor vehicles and traffic was in 1982; and

**WHEREAS**, since 1982, there have been substantial socioeconomic changes, including shifts in the cost of living, employment patterns, and income levels, necessitating an updated fee structure that reflects the current economic realities; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Memphis recognizes the need to align its vehicle registration fees with those of other major cities in Tennessee to ensure consistency and fairness, while also addressing the unique needs and financial requirements of Memphis; and

**WHEREAS**, an increase in vehicle registration fees for Classes A- H vehicles will generate substantial additional revenue that can be allocated towards critical infrastructure improvements, public safety, and other essential city services; and

**WHEREAS**, in an effort to address this need, the Council passed Ordinance No. 5907; however, upon further information, it is necessary to amend such fees to ensure that the City of Memphis achieves its intended goal to increase revenues.

**NOW, THEREFORE,**

**Section 1. BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MEMPHIS** that Chapter 21, Article VIII – Motor Vehicles and Traffic, Registration of Vehicles – Section 21-268, governing registration fees is hereby amended to state the following:

Sec. 21-268. Registration Fees

- A. For every motor vehicle which is registered as required by this chapter, the owner thereof as classified under T.C.A. § 55-4-111 shall pay the city's registration agent fees as follows:

Vehicle Registration Fee Classes	Current	Proposed
Class (A) motorcycles	\$10.00	\$20.00
Class (C) passenger motor vehicles	\$30.00	\$60.00
Class (E): Private buses (not for hire): In the case of buses or motor-driven coaches utilized exclusively for transporting either the owner or persons associated with the owner in a trade, business or vocation, or both of them, together with personalty constituting the tools of such trade, business or vocation, between places where such trade, business or vocation may be carried on, and not used to transport persons or property for hire --- registration fee	\$30.00	\$60.00

Class (F): Low-speed vehicles "Low Speed Vehicle" means any four wheeled electric or gasoline vehicle, excluding golf carts, whose top speed is greater than 20 mph but not greater than 25 mph, including neighborhood electric vehicles. Low speed vehicles must comply with the standards in 49 CFR 571.500.	\$30.00	\$60.00
Class (G): Medium-speed vehicles "Medium Speed Vehicle" means any four wheeled electric or gasoline vehicle, excluding golf carts, whose top speed is greater than 30 mph but not greater than 35 mph, including neighborhood electric vehicles and mini-trucks. Medium speed vehicles must meet or exceed the federal safety standards set forth in 49 CFR 571.500.	\$30.00	\$60.00
Class (H)(i): Class I off-highway vehicles "Class I off-highway vehicle" means a motorized vehicle with not less than four non-highway tires, no more than six non-highway tires, whose top speed is greater than 35 mph, that is limited in total dry weight up to 2,500 lbs, that is 80 inches or less in width, and that has a non-straddle seating capable of holding no more than four passengers and a steering wheel. "Class I off-highway vehicle" includes mini-trucks.	\$30.00	\$60.00
Class (H)(ii): Class II off-highway vehicles "Class II off-highway vehicle" means any off-highway vehicle that is designed to be primarily used for recreational purposes, that has a non-straddle seating capable of holding at least two but no more than four passengers and a steering wheel, and that is commonly referred to as a sand buggy, dune buggy, rock crawler, or sand rail. "Class II off-highway vehicle" does not include a snowmobile or other vehicle designed to travel exclusively over snow or ice.	\$30.00	\$60.00

<b>COMMERCIAL VEHICLE REGISTRATION FEES</b>		
<b>CLASS</b>	<b>WEIGHT</b>	<b>MEMPHIS FEE</b>
BU1	1-7 SEATS	60.00
BU2	8-15 SEATS	60.00
BU3	16-25 SEATS	60.00
BU4	26-25 SEATS	60.00
BU5	OVER 25 SEATS	60.00
BU6	WITHIN CITY	60.00
H01	9000	68.00
H02	16000	81.00
H03	20000	113.00
H04	26000	144.00
H05	32000	176.00
H06	38000	207.00
H07	44000	239.00
H08	55000	382.00
H09	66000	413.00
H10	74000	476.00
H11	80000	552.00
J02	16000	68.00
J03	20000	81.00
J04	26000	113.00
J05	32000	144.00
J06	38000	176.00
J07	44000	207.00
J08	56000	309.00
J09	66000	382.00

J10	74000	413.00
J11	80000	476.00
Z01	74000 LOCAL	413.00
Z02	74000 MULTI	413.00
Z03	LOCAL CONCRETE	413.00
Z04	MULTI CONCRETE	413.00
Z05	80000 LOCAL	476.00
Z06	80000 MULTI	476.00
FL1	9000	40.00
FL2	16000	43.00
FL3	20000	51.00
FL4	26000	59.00
FL5	32000	67.00
FL6	38000	74.00
FL7	44000	82.00
FL8	56000	101.00
FL9	66000	108.00
FL10	74000	124.00
FL11	80000	143.00
WD1	WELL DRILLER	68.00
SPO	SEMI TRAILER	

B. Registration fee for dealers, manufacturers and transporters.

1. Any manufacturer, transporter or dealer owning a motor vehicle for the sole purpose of resale may obtain "dealer" registration of the vehicle at the hereinafter fees for the specified purpose of operating such vehicles upon the city streets. Operation upon the streets of the city under this special registration is to be limited to operation by their customers for temporary purposes, not in excess of 24 hours, or for movement of any vehicle of the like type upon the city streets solely for the purpose of delivery. The operation of service vehicles owned by a manufacturer or transporter or dealer while using special registration is not permitted. The fee for the first registration shall be at the rate of \$62.00, for a passenger motor vehicle and the charge for each additional registration for the manufacturer, transporter or dealer special registration shall be at \$41.00 per vehicle. The fee for registration for Master Plates shall be at an additional \$5.00.
2. Any dealer engaged in the sale of trucks (freight motor vehicles) at retail may make application for purchase of special dealer registration at a fee of \$325.00 per unit. No dealer shall permit such registrations to be used by any person except one who is a prospective purchaser of such truck. All other restrictions that apply to such dealers in T.C.A. § 55-4-117 shall also apply to the city registration.

C. Proration of fees for any class shall be done in accordance with the laws of the State of Tennessee.

- D. All city registrations issued for motor vehicles as registered for state purposes under chapters 1 through 6 of title 55, T.C.A., shall expire at the same date set out in T.C.A. § 55-4-104 for the registration with the state.
- E. These fees shall apply to all vehicles whose registration becomes due from and after the effective date hereof.

**Section 2. Nonconflicting - Conflicting laws.**

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that as amended hereby all laws constituting the present Code of Ordinances of the City of Memphis be and the same are hereby continued in full force and effect, and all laws in conflict herewith are hereby repealed. This ordinance does not alter or amend the rights or obligations of any person or entity that may exist under the City Charter or under Tennessee law.

**Section 3. Severability.**

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby severable. If any of these sections, provisions, sentences, clauses, phrases, or parts are held to be unconstitutional or void, the remainder of this Ordinance shall continue in full force and effect.

**Section 4. Effective Date.**

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED That this Ordinance shall take effect from and after the date it shall have been passed by the Council, signed by the Chairman of the Council, certified and delivered to the Office of Mayor in writing by the Comptroller and become effective as otherwise provided by law.

Sponsor(s):  
Administration

JB Smiley, Jr.  
Chairman

THE FOREGOING ORDINANCE  
# 5912 PASSED  
1st Reading 7/9/24  
2nd Reading 7/23/24  
3rd Reading 8/6/24  
Approved: JB Smiley, Jr.  
Chairman of Council

Date Signed: 09/06/24

[Signature]  
Mayor, City of Memphis

Date Signed: 9/6/24

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy, and said document was adopted by the Council of the City of Memphis as above indicated and approved by the Mayor.

Valerie C. Squires  
Comptroller