

Senate Bill 888

February 8, 2022

Testimony from Rep. Spiros

Hello, and thank you Chairman Petrowski and members of the Senate Committee on Transportation and Local Government for allowing me to testify on Senate Bill 888 relating to registration periods for certain motor vehicles and reuse of registration plates.

In Wisconsin, vehicles under 8,000 pounds must be registered annually by the Department of Transportation. What many people don't know is that the registration is effective the date of renewal until one year later. For example if you renew on October 10, 2021, the registration will only be in effect until October 10, 2022. This can cause confusion as the stickers which we all put on our license plates just say the month of registration, not the specific date.

This bill looks to create a monthly series system for the registration of these vehicles. This means that there would be 12 registration periods, beginning on the first day of the month and ending on the last day of the 12th month. SB 888 also requires municipalities to follow the same registration period system.

Additionally, the bill addresses the transfer of registration plates between vehicles to allow plates to be used on another vehicle of the same type and under 8,000 pounds, whether or not the weight is the same as the previous vehicle.

Again, thank you again for allowing me the opportunity to testify in support of this bill and I am happy to answer any questions that you may have.



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Testimony of Joel Nilsestuen, Assistant Deputy Secretary Senate Committee on Transportation and Local Government Public Hearing - February 8, 2022

Thank you, Chairman Petrowski and committee members for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 888 on behalf of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation.

Under current law for Automobile registration, the date of expiration is one full year from the initial date of operation. (e.g. car, SUV, minivan).

Example: Initial date of operation shown on the application is February 8th, 2022. New Auto plates issued will expire on February 7th, 2023.

- The benefit of this registration schedule is that Wisconsin residents receive one full year of registration.
- The detriment of this registration schedule is that customers need to refer to their Certificate of Registration or Renewal Notice in order to determine when their Auto plate expires. (The license plate will display a 23 sticker to indicate the year of expiration and a Feb sticker to indicate the month of expiration. There is no sticker to indicate the day).

Under current law for Light Truck registration (4,500, 6,000, 8,000 lbs.), vehicles are registered for 12 full calendar months, starting on the first day of the first month in which the vehicle is first operated and ending on the last day of the twelfth month. The first month in which the vehicle is operated will be the first registered calendar month, regardless of what day of the month the vehicle was first operated.

Example: LTK registration for a truck first operated on February 8th, 2022 will expire on January 31st, 2023.

- The benefit of this registration schedule is that all Light Truck registrations expire at the end of the month. Customers can refer to their license plate stickers and know when their plate needs to be renewed. (The license plate will display a 23 sticker to indicate the year of expiration and a Jan sticker to indicate the month of expiration).
- The detriment of this registration schedule is that customers can lose up to 30 days of registration upon initial application. This loss is only for the first year of registration.

Under the proposal, Auto and Light Truck registration periods will be unified and expire at the end of the month. When calculating the expiration date, DMV will move forward the expiration date to the end of the month so customers will not lose any registration days upon initial registration.

Example: Auto or Light Truck first operated on February 8th, 2022 will expire February 28th, 2023.

- The benefits of this registration schedule are that all Light Truck and Registration will expire at the end of the month, allowing customers to determine their expiration date simply by referring to their license plate registration stickers. Unlike the current Light Truck registration period, no customers will lose days of registration upon the first year of application.
- Current Automobile registrations that do not expire at the end of the month will have their expiration date extended until the end of that month. This adjustment will occur automatically by DMV upon the subsequent renewal of the Automobile registration.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify today. I would be happy to answer any questions you might have.