

# A Brief Guide to Excise Tax



**PROVIDED BY  
THE ABINGTON ASSESSORS OFFICE**

# Excise Tax...



- All Massachusetts residents or businesses who own and register a vehicle must pay a yearly excise tax.
- The tax is due to the town where the vehicle is principally garaged.
- The Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) prepares excise bills for all of the cities/towns in Massachusetts.
- If you've moved within Massachusetts, in the calendar year, the excise tax is due to wherever the vehicle was garaged as of January 1<sup>st</sup>, or as of the tax date shown on the bill.

# Excise Value



- The value the RMV places on your vehicle is based on a percentage of the manufacturer's suggested retail price (MSRP), and is taxed at \$25 per \$1000 of value.
- The percentages:
  - 50% Of the MSRP for the calendar year before the model year
  - 90% For the model year
  - 60% For the 2<sup>nd</sup> year
  - 40% For the 3<sup>rd</sup> year
  - 25% For the 4<sup>th</sup> year
  - 10% For the 5<sup>th</sup>, and all subsequent years.

# Excise Bills



- Excise is prorated on a monthly basis.
- If a vehicle is registered for any part (even 1 day) of a month, the whole month is due.
- Payment of excise tax is due 30 days from the date the excise tax bill was issued.
- Failure to receive a bill does not negate the obligation the bill represents.

# Overvaluation



- If you feel the valuation is too high, you must contact the RMV at: 857-368-8100.
- If the RMV determines that an error has been made, they will contact the Assessor's Office, and indicate what corrections have to be made.

# I don't live (or have never lived) in Abington...



- If you receive a bill and the vehicle has never been garaged in Abington, or you have moved on or before the tax date shown on the bill, you must notify our office, so that we may correct the bill.
- You must prove to the Assessor's Office, via the Insurance Coverage Selection Page, that the vehicle was never garaged in Abington. If sufficiently proven, we will abate the excise tax in full.
- We will also submit paperwork to the correct town and the RMV, so that you may get billed accordingly.

# Abatements



- A reduction/refund of excise may be made for certain reasons, provided we receive all of the appropriate documentation.
- We require documentation of what happened to both the plates **and** the vehicle.
- Please note, transferring the plates to another vehicle **is not** sufficient evidence to prove you no longer own a vehicle.
- We will not hold on to partial applications.
- Our abatement application (available on our website) lists the documentation we require, based on what happened to the vehicle.

# Reasons for abatements



- If you've moved to a new state
- If you've sold/traded/gifted the vehicle
- If the vehicle has been stolen
- If the vehicle has been totaled
- If the vehicle has been repossessed
- If the vehicle was returned via the lemon law
- If the vehicle was taken to the junkyard.



# Leased Vehicles



- If you lease a vehicle, the lease company is considered the owner of the vehicle.
- If you terminate the lease, the company is eligible to file the abatement application and the refund would go to the company.

# Exemptions



- There are certain situations which allow people to be exempt from excise tax, provided they meet the requirements set forth by the RMV.
- Certain disabled veterans, ex-prisoners of war, certain disabled non-veterans, and certain charitable organizations may be exempt from excise tax on one or more vehicles.
- Please contact our office for more information on whether you qualify for an excise tax exemption.

# Remember...



- An application to abate excise tax does not halt the collection of the Motor Vehicle Excise Tax and fines, penalties, and interest may accumulate if the excise bill is not paid in full and on time.
- Abatements only apply to the original amount of the bill; it will not reduce/refund any fines or penalties.
- We cannot reduce a tax bill to less than \$5.
- No abatement can be granted for less than \$5.
- We cannot apply refunds to future excise bills.
- Adjustments to excise bills are not made instantaneously.

# If you have any questions...



- Please feel free to contact our office at: 781-982-2107
- The hours of the Town Hall are:
  - Monday-Thursday: 8:30am to 4:30pm
  - Friday: 8:30am to 12:30pm
  - We are closed Saturdays and Sundays.

Abington Assessors Office  
500 Gliniewicz Way  
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