



**JULIE P. MAGEE**  
Commissioner

# State of Alabama Department of Revenue

(www.revenue.alabama.gov)  
50 North Ripley Street  
Montgomery, Alabama 36132

October 21, 2015

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Assistant Commissioner

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Deputy Commissioner

**CURTIS E. STEWART**  
Deputy Commissioner

## MEMORANDUM

**2015-026**

**TO:** License Plate Issuing Officials

**FROM:** Sherry Helms, Registration Manager SCH  
Motor Vehicle Division

**SUBJECT:** Alabama National Guard/State Guard Registration Fee Exemption Clarification

On August 12, 2015, the Motor Vehicle Division distributed Memo 2015-015, which explained the provisions of Act 2015-506. One of the amendments pertains to the registration fee exemption for active and retired members of the Alabama National Guard and Alabama State Guard.

Effective August 11, 2015, active and retired members of the Alabama National Guard or Alabama State Guard may apply the registration fee exemption for one private passenger vehicle to any license plate category for which they qualify. Prior to this change, the exemption could only be applied to the Alabama National Guard distinctive military license plate. The Motor Vehicle Division has recently received several inquiries regarding how to handle vehicle registrations during this transition period, and this memorandum seeks to clarify this matter.

When a Guard member elects to continue obtaining the Alabama National Guard distinctive military license plate, no changes will be necessary. The registration period for these plates will continue to begin October 1 pursuant to the provisions of Section 32-6-113, Code of Alabama 1975. If, however, the Guard member elects to obtain a plate from another license plate category, the staggered registration system will apply in accordance with Code Section 32-6-61. The following example is provided for clarification:

Example: Guard Member Doe decides to obtain a standard license plate in lieu of the Alabama National Guard plate. Doe would receive a registration from December 1, 2015 through January 2016 (Doe's expiration month). Doe can elect to pay a prorated registration fee for this period and wait to redeem the registration fee exemption certificate in January 2016 for a full registration year or Doe can use the registration fee exemption certificate and apply it to the registration fees due from December 1, 2015 through January 2016. Doe can only redeem the registration fee exemption certificate once. If Doe opts for the latter option, in January 2016, Doe must pay the full registration fees for the year because the registration fee exemption certificate has already been redeemed.

It is important to note that regardless of when Doe decides to redeem the registration fee exemption certificate, if Doe opts to obtain a distinctive license plate that has an applicable annual additional fee, the fee must be paid for the period December 1, 2015 through January 2016 and again during the vehicle renewal in January 2016.

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The Motor Vehicle Division is in communications with both the Army and Air National Guard regarding this matter and is assisting them with effectively communicating this information to all Guard members thereby reducing the amount of time licensing officials must allocate to these type registration transactions.

Please feel free to contact the Motor Vehicle Division at: [tags@revenue.alabama.gov](mailto:tags@revenue.alabama.gov) or (334) 242-9006 should you have any questions regarding this matter.