

## **SD DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND REGULATION**

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### **Preparations Continue for “Keep Your Plate – July ‘08”**

(PIERRE, SD) – With just a few months to go until the implementation of the new license plate with owner system, the South Dakota Division of Motor Vehicles has sharpened its focus on training and education.

The license plate with owner system was first approved by the South Dakota Legislature in 2005. In order to accommodate the change, lawmakers also approved the creation of a new computer system called SDcars (South Dakota Customized Automated Registration System) which has been in development since that time. Since January of this year, the Division has been training the county employees and its own staff who will be using SDcars when it becomes fully operational July 1, 2008, the same time the state’s new license plate with owner system becomes effective.

Division of Motor Vehicles Director Debra Hillmer says while converting the Division’s more than four million records from the old system to the new has been a challenge, the bigger challenge has been educating everyone affected by the change about the role they will play in the new process.

“The move to license plate with owner impacts virtually every South Dakotan who owns a vehicle as well as any government employee or business that deals with the sale of vehicles. The new system brings new responsibilities for everyone involved in these transactions and it’s important for them to be aware of that prior to the July 1 start date,” Hillmer said.

Under the current license plate with vehicle system, the plates that are on a vehicle when it’s sold stay with the vehicle, and the license plate number remains the identifying number for that specific vehicle as long as the plate series is valid. With the new license plate with owner system, the plates on a vehicle belong to the titled owner(s) of the vehicle. If the vehicle is sold, the seller keeps the plates for use on the next vehicle they acquire as long as it is the same type of vehicle. Hillmer says the changeover to the new license plate system will make things more efficient for everyone involved.

“SDcars ties all of a vehicle owner’s records together, allowing for handy features like multiple vehicle renewal and multiple transactions for a single customer like registration renewal, adding a title, or updating an address,” Hillmer said. “And by allowing licensed vehicle dealers to enter sales information on-line to the state’s computer system, it will save data entry time and improve efficiency for the counties.”

The new system is also expected to help reduce complaints and problems involving out-of-state parking violations and tickets; ensure that license plate owners receive credit for any remaining months on the license plate when they sell a vehicle and attach their plate to their new vehicle; and make it possible for customers to eventually renew their vehicle registrations and complete transactions on-line.

For more information on “Keep Your Plate – July ‘08” and the SDcars system, log on to [SDcars.org](http://SDcars.org).