



FORSYTHCOUNTY
Department of Communications
Release 000622
January 24, 2013

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**SWEEPING CHANGES TO AD VALOREM TAX ON VEHICLES
TO BEGIN MARCH 1, 2013**

*Change only applies when ownership of a vehicle is transferred
through a title exchange*

FORSYTHCOUNTY, Georgia – Tax reform legislation enacted by the Georgia General Assembly in 2012 created a new system for taxing motor vehicles registered in Georgia. Effective March 1, 2013, House Bill 386 removes both sales tax and annual ad valorem taxes for vehicles purchased March 1, 2013 and thereafter, replacing them with a single, one-time title ad valorem tax (TAVT). The new title ad valorem tax is calculated as a percentage of the vehicle's fair market value (FMV), not the sales price, as determined by the Georgia Department of Revenue.

The new tax rate will be 6.5% of FMV for vehicles purchased March 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013, increasing to 6.75% for vehicles purchased January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014, and to 7% for those purchased January 1, 2015 and beyond.

Additional information regarding the new title ad valorem tax is available on the Georgia Department of Revenue's frequently asked questions Web page at <http://onlinemvd.dor.ga.gov/Tap/faqs.aspx>.

Vehicles purchased March 1, 2013 and beyond:

If you purchase a vehicle on or after March 1, 2013, you will pay the new title ad valorem tax to the tag office in your county of residence at the time of title application and registration. The title tax is not annual, and is charged only when the vehicle is re-sold and titled.

The new title ad valorem tax will apply to vehicles purchased from a dealership as well as those purchased from an individual (private sales).

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Vehicles purchased January 1, 2012 through February 28, 2013:

Citizens who purchased or purchase a vehicle in the state of Georgia between January 1, 2012 and February 28, 2013 may be eligible to opt in and pay the new title ad valorem tax on the vehicle during the opt in period of March 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013. Qualifying citizens who choose to opt in will receive a credit (up to the title ad valorem tax amount) for sales tax paid when the vehicle was purchased, as well as any previously paid annual ad valorem taxes. Any balance remaining after the credit is applied would need to be paid to opt in. If choosing to opt in, please be sure to bring all pertinent documentation from the vehicle's purchase (purchasing agreement, bill of sale, etc.) when you visit the Tax Commissioner's Office to pay.

Those wishing to do a cost estimate prior to determining to opt in may do so by using the Georgia Department of Revenue's cost estimator, found on their Web site at:
<http://onlinemvd.dor.ga.gov/Tap/welcome.aspx>.

To opt in, please visit the Forsyth County Tax Commissioner's Office between March 1, 2013 and December 31, 2013 at either of the two locations:

Main office:

1092 Tribble Gap Road
Cumming, GA 30040

Satellite office:

(inside Sharon Springs Park)
1950 Sharon Road
Cumming, GA 30041

Office hours:

8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday (excluding holidays)

Payment options:

Cash, check, debit card (please note a \$1.00 convenience fee will be charged for debit card transactions)

Phone:

770.781.2110

Other important information:

All vehicles purchased prior to January 1, 2012, as well as those purchased between January 1, 2012 and February 28, 2013 not "opted in", will continue to be subject to annual ad valorem tax until re-sold.

All other existing annual vehicle registration requirements, including annual tag renewal fees, decals, and emission tests (if applicable), remain in effect for all vehicles.

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