Vehicle Industry News
VIN 2019–16

Dealer Document/Electronic Filing Fee Changes

Effective: Immediately

New Information
The electronic filing fee (transaction fee) dealers may charge a vehicle purchaser or lessee increased by $1, not to exceed $30.

The documentation fee dealers may charge a customer increased by $5. Dealers may now charge a customer up to:
- $85 if a dealer is participating in the Business Partner Automation (BPA) program.
- $70 if a dealer is not participating in the BPA program.

Background
Assembly Bill (AB) 516 (Chapter 90, Statutes of 2016) increased the document processing charge a dealer may impose on the purchaser or lessee of a vehicle by $5, and authorized the imposition of a specified electronic filing charge for reporting vehicle sales and producing temporary license plates.

Senate Bill (SB) 848 (Chapter 46, Statutes of 2018) required the Department of Motor Vehicles to impose an additional $1 transaction fee for implementation of the private industry partners’ proportionate share of department-wide system improvements, until sufficient funds have been received, or on December 31, 2023, whichever occurs first. This bill prohibited a private industry partner from passing on the additional fee to the customer.

AB 3163 (Chapter 400, Statutes of 2018) deleted the prohibition in SB 848 against passing on the $1 transaction fee (electronic filing fee) to the consumer and specified that the $1 fee is to be imposed in addition to, and in accordance with, the $4 transaction fee.

References
California Vehicle Code §§1685 and 4456.5
Vehicle Industry Registration Procedures Manual, Chapter 3, §3.030

Distribution
Notification that this memo is available online at dmv.ca.gov under Publications was made via California DMV’s Automated Email Alert System in October 2019.

Contact
Call the DMV Customer Communications Section at (916) 657-6560 for further clarification of this memo.