STATE OF NEW YORK

9397

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

December 19, 2025

Introduced by M. of A. E. BROWN -- read once and referred to the Committee on Transportation

AN ACT to amend the vehicle and traffic law, in relation to the registration and titling of surplus military vehicles purchased from the federal government

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. Legislative findings and intent. The legislature hereby finds and declares that:

1. New York residents legally purchase surplus United States Department of Defense vehicles through authorized federal surplus property programs and auctions, including but not limited to GovPlanet, GSA Auctions, and other federal contractors.

2. Such surplus vehicles are routinely accompanied by federal documentation including Standard Form 97 (U.S. Government Certificate to Obtain Title), U.S. Department of Justice titles, or other official federal transfer documents used by states throughout the nation to issue lawful titles and registrations.

3. Under federal disposal rules, "surplus" vehicles differ significantly from "decommissioned" military vehicles. Surplus vehicles do not contain active offensive or defensive military capabilities and are not required to be demilitarized or destroyed.

4. New York residents who purchase such surplus vehicles and subsequently install department of transportation-compliant glass, lighting, tires, mirrors, and other safety equipment--and who pass an official New York State safety and emissions inspection--should not be prohibited from titling, registering, or operating said vehicles on public highways.

5. The current absence of statutory clarity has resulted in the department of motor vehicles refusing to title or register federally

EXPLANATION--Matter in *italics* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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documented surplus vehicles, causing substantial financial loss to residents and contradicting federal intent for surplus property utilization.

Therefore, the purpose of this act is to establish a clear, uniform, and lawful pathway for the titling and registration of surplus military vehicles in New York State once they are made road-legal and pass inspection.

§ 2. The vehicle and traffic law is amended by adding a new section 401-c to read as follows:

§ 401-c. Registration of surplus military vehicles. 1. For purposes of this section, "surplus military vehicle" shall mean a vehicle previously owned by the United States department of defense or any federal agency, sold or transferred through an authorized federal surplus property program, and accompanied by one or more of the following documents:

a. Standard Form 97;

b. a U.S. Department of Justice title; or

c. any other federal certificate of release or transfer used to obtain state-issued title.

2. The department shall issue a New York state certificate of title and registration for any surplus military vehicle that meets all of the following conditions:

a. the applicant presents valid federal surplus transfer documentation as defined in subdivision one of this section;

b. the vehicle has been equipped with DOT-compliant safety glass, lighting, tires, and other equipment required under New York state law;

c. the vehicle passes a New York state inspection performed at an inspection station licensed under section three hundred three of this chapter; and

d. the vehicle does not contain active offensive or defensive military systems.

3. The department shall not deny title or registration solely on the basis that a vehicle was formerly used by the United States military or solely on the basis that it is categorized as "decommissioned" by department personnel, provided the vehicle satisfies the requirements of subdivision two of this section.

4. Where necessary, the department may conduct a supplemental safety inspection through the vehicle safety division, but such inspection shall be performed within thirty days of the applicant's request. Failure to conduct such inspection within this period shall result in deemed approval.

5. Registered surplus military vehicles shall be treated as passenger vehicles or trucks in accordance with their weight class and usage, and may be lawfully operated on all public highways of this state.

§ 3. This act shall take effect immediately and shall apply to all applications pending or submitted on or after such effective date.