

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:

- 1 Section 1. Legislative findings and intent. The legislature hereby
2 finds and declares that:
- 3 1. New York residents legally purchase surplus United States Department of Defense vehicles through authorized federal surplus property
4 programs and auctions, including but not limited to GovPlanet, GSA
5 Auctions, and other federal contractors.
6
- 7 2. Such surplus vehicles are routinely accompanied by federal documentation including Standard Form 97 (U.S. Government Certificate to Obtain
8 Title), U.S. Department of Justice titles, or other official federal
9 transfer documents used by states throughout the nation to issue lawful
10 titles and registrations.
11
- 12 3. Under federal disposal rules, "surplus" vehicles differ significantly from "decommissioned" military vehicles. Surplus vehicles do not
13 contain active offensive or defensive military capabilities and are not
14 required to be demilitarized or destroyed.
15
- 16 4. New York residents who purchase such surplus vehicles and subsequently install department of transportation-compliant glass, lighting,
17 tires, mirrors, and other safety equipment--and who pass an official New
18 York State safety and emissions inspection--should not be prohibited
19 from titling, registering, or operating said vehicles on public high-
20 ways.
21
- 22 5. The current absence of statutory clarity has resulted in the
23 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.

LBD14230-01-5

1 documented surplus vehicles, causing substantial financial loss to resi-
2 dents and contradicting federal intent for surplus property utilization.
3 Therefore, the purpose of this act is to establish a clear, uniform,
4 and lawful pathway for the titling and registration of surplus military
5 vehicles in New York State once they are made road-legal and pass
6 inspection.

7 § 2. The vehicle and traffic law is amended by adding a new section
8 401-c to read as follows:

9 § 401-c. Registration of surplus military vehicles. 1. For purposes of
10 this section, "surplus military vehicle" shall mean a vehicle previously
11 owned by the United States department of defense or any federal agency,
12 sold or transferred through an authorized federal surplus property
13 program, and accompanied by one or more of the following documents:

14 a. Standard Form 97;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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