

Motor vehicle taxes are collected based on the location of the vehicle as opposed to where the owner is located. Therefore, a vehicle owner may live in the city limits of Southport, but pay motor vehicle taxes to the Village of Bald Head Island because the vehicle is actually located on the island rather than in Southport.

Tag & Tax Together Project

The North Carolina General Assembly passed a new law to create a combined motor vehicle registration renewal and property tax collection system. In doing so, the new law transfers the responsibility for motor vehicle tax collection from the 100 counties across North Carolina to the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV).

North Carolina's new "Tag & Tax Together" system has been designed as a convenient way to pay annual vehicle tag renewals and vehicle property taxes at the same time.

If your address is current with the N.C. Division of Motor Vehicles, you will receive a Tag & Tax Notice listing both vehicle registration fees and taxes due combined into one total amount due. Just as in the past, vehicle owners will receive the notice about 60 days prior to their vehicle's registration expiration date.

Prior to this change, vehicle registration fees and vehicle property taxes have been billed and paid separately. Each county has been responsible for managing vehicle tax collections, while DMV collected registration fees.

In mid-2013, DMV began sending out registration renewal notices that combine the vehicle property tax that is due along with the plate renewal registration fee. The fees and taxes are listed separately, but both will be due at the same time. The total amount due on the combined notice will be payable to NCDMV. As before, you can pay online, through the mail or in person at a license plate agency near you.