

MOTOR VEHICLE EXCISE

Under MGL Chapter 60A, all Massachusetts residents who own and register a motor vehicle must annually pay a motor vehicle excise. Also, under MGL, Chapter 59, Section 2, it is important to note that every motor vehicle, registered or not, is subject to taxation for the privilege of using the roads in the Commonwealth.

Billing

The Registry of Motor Vehicles is responsible for preparing the excise bill using the information obtained from the vehicle registration. Periodically throughout the year, the information is sent to the Town of Wakefield's Assessor who in turn commits the bills to the Tax Collector. The Tax Collector mails the bills and collects the excise based on the data sent by the RMV.

Place where excise is due and payable

The excise must be payable to the community in which the vehicle is principally garaged. When an individual moves during a calendar year, payment is due where the vehicle was originally garaged on January 1st or where garaged on the date of registration if registered after January 1st.

Registration period

A vehicle registered at any time during a month is considered to have been registered for the entire month. For example, if a vehicle is registered on April 30th, it will be assessed for nine months. The excise due will be 9/12 of a full year's excise.

Excise Tax

The excise tax rate is standard throughout the Commonwealth - \$25 per \$1,000 of assessed value. Bills are payable within 30 days from the bill date. It is important that the excise bill receive your immediate attention. The tax liability remains until paid or abated. Upon receipt of the bill, we suggest you pay to avoid future charges. Please direct any questions you may have to the Assessor 781-246-6380.

For a more comprehensive review of motor vehicle excise, please click on the Citizen Information Service link listed on the Tax Collector's home page.