

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 476

BY REPRESENTATIVE FONTENOT

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

MTR VEHICLE/DEALERS: Provides relative to an annual automatic adjustment to a fee for motor vehicle dealers based on the Consumer Price Index

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 6:969.18(A)(2)(a), relative to an annual automatic adjustment
3 to a fee for motor vehicle dealers; to provide for a fee increase based on the
4 Consumer Price Index; to instruct the office of motor vehicles on the calculation of
5 the fee; to provide for an effective date; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 6:969.18(A)(2)(a) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as
8 follows:

9 §969.18. Documentation and compliance fees; notary fees; transfer of equity and
10 other fees; disclosure

11 A.

12 * * *

13 (2)(a) The seller, who may also be an extender of credit, may, in connection
14 with any retail sale, including but not limited to a retail installment transaction,
15 charge a fee for credit investigation, compliance with federal and state law,
16 preparation of the documents necessary to perfect or satisfy a lien upon the objects
17 sold, and any other functions incidental to the titling of the retail sale. The base
18 maximum amount permitted to be charged shall be four hundred twenty-five dollars.
19 The base maximum fee permitted under this Paragraph shall be adjusted to reflect
20 the cumulative percentage change in the annual average of the Federal Consumer

Price Index for All Urban Consumers, or CPI-U, or its successor index, as reported by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, or its successor agency, for the most recent twelve-month period, relative to the index value for calendar year 2025. The Federal Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers or CPI-U shall not exceed three percent for a calendar year. If the cumulative percentage change is negative, no adjustment shall be made for that year. The office of motor vehicles shall annually calculate and furnish the adjusted maximum fee no later than January fourteenth of each year. Any adjustment amount which is less than fifty cents shall be rounded down to the next lowest whole dollar, and any adjustment amount which is fifty cents or greater shall be rounded up to the next highest whole dollar.

* * *

Section 2. The fee adjustment specified in R.S. 6:969.18(A)(2)(a) as enacted by Section 1 of this Act, shall begin on January 1, 2026.

Section 3. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become effective on the day following such approval.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 476 Engrossed

2025 Regular Session

Fontenot

Abstract: Provides relative to an annual automatic adjustment to a fee for motor vehicle dealers.

Present law authorizes a motor vehicle seller to charge a fee for credit investigation, compliance with federal and state law, preparation of the documents necessary to perfect or satisfy a lien upon the objects sold, and any other functions incidental to the titling of the retail sale not to exceed \$425.

Proposed law changes present law to allow the fee to be increased annually by an amount equal to the percentage change in the annual average of the Consumer Price Index for All

Urban Consumers as reported by the Federal Bureau of Labor Statistics by zero, whichever is greater.

Proposed law provides that the Federal Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers or CPI-U shall not exceed 3% for a calendar year.

Proposed law provides that the office of motor vehicles must annually calculate and furnish the fee determined under proposed law no later than the 14th of Jan. each year.

Proposed law provides that the fee adjustment provided in proposed law will begin Jan. 1, 2026.

Effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 6:969.18(A)(2)(a))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works to the original bill:

1. Add that the Federal Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers or CPI-U cannot exceed 3% for a calendar year.