

# State of Nevada Department Of Motor Vehicles

Technology Fee Refund Project Court Stipulation Status Report

Status Report to the Interim Finance Committee and Nevada Legislative Commission January – February 2022



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#### I. Summary

Senate Bill 542 was enacted during the 80<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session and authorized the Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to continue collecting a \$1 technology fee for DMV transactions through June 30, 2022, to pay the expenses associated with implementing, upgrading, and maintaining the DMV's information technology platform. SB542 was legally challenged by Senate Republicans, arguing that it should have required a 2/3 majority to pass in accordance with the Nevada Constitution, rather than passing by a simple majority. On May 13, 2021, the Supreme Court of Nevada agreed with the decision of the District Court, finding that SB542 was unconstitutional. Consequently, the DMV was ordered to refund the \$1 technology fees unconstitutionally collected. The DMV is required to provide periodic updates on the technology fee refunds at each meeting of the Interim Finance Committee and the Legislative Commission as part of the approved stipulation agreement between the parties. The DMV will provide this report to the Plaintiffs and the District Court, as also required per the approved stipulation agreement.



#### II. Objective

The objective of the Technology Fee Refund Project is to refund technology fees unconstitutionally collected from individuals, businesses and fleets that paid it from July 1, 2020, through August 31, 2021.

Businesses/fleets will be issued refund checks through Wells Fargo pursuant to a contract between the Nevada Treasurer's Office and Wells Fargo. The DMV has generated a letter that will accompany each refund check to inform the businesses/fleets on why they are getting a refund. Business refunds will include interest.

Individuals will need to visit a DMV office to collect their refunds in cash. It does not have to be the same office where the technology fees were paid.

In the larger DMV offices, refunds will be issued by trained temporary staff, who will also be utilized by the DMV Administrative Services Division to manage the technician bank bags, money, and balancing needs. In rural offices, or in cases where there are an insufficient number of temporary workers, refunds will be issued by DMV staff. Refunds will not be available at DMV partner offices including assessors' or treasurers' offices, AAA locations, or emission stations.

The DMV Call Center will have temporary staff to assist with customers calling in with question or concerns.

Customers that are eligible for a refund will receive notification via the news media, social media, and <a href="www.dmvnv.com">www.dmvnv.com</a>. Customers eligible for a refund that do not want to receive it are not required to accept it or visit an office.



#### III. Activities and Accomplishments for this Period

- Business checks were sent out in late February. Refunds will be made available to the public in April.
- The technology fee refund software application that staff and temporary workers will use to track refunds is being tested, and they are being trained on it.
- A communications plan, a project timeline and training guides have been completed.
- Staff continues to refine and document the refund process to ensure customers have a positive experience getting their DMV refunds.



### IV. Expenditures to Date

The following table provides expenditures on this program from 7/1/2021 to 1/31/22:

GL/Description	Authorized (Per SB 457)	Revised Budget (Per Stipulation)	Expended
7020 Operating Supplies			\$1,873.10
7023 Tech Supplies			\$0.00
7027 Cash Boxes, Deposit/Bank Bags			\$707.17
7060 Contract Services	\$5,605,924	\$1,825,731.92	\$3,707.50
7072 Contracts - Media Campaign	\$30,000	\$15,000	\$3,277.50
7211 MSA Contractors	\$458,400	\$126,172.62	\$139, 274.75
7222 Data Processing Supplies			\$11,559.83
7285 State Mailroom Postage	\$1,746,650	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>7460</b> Equipment < \$1,000			\$8,899.85
8371 Computer Hardware			\$0.00
Additional Interest Pending Final Distribution		\$315,578.76	
Totals	\$7,840,974	\$2,282,483.30	\$169,299.70