



STATEMENT

TaxWatch Commends Governor and Legislature for Reducing Vehicle Registration Fees

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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TALLAHASSEE, Fla. - Statement from Dominic M. Calabro of Florida TaxWatch on Governor Scott's signing of SB 156 to roll back vehicle registration fees.

"Florida TaxWatch commends the Legislature for passing and Governor Scott for signing the first tax relief bill of the 2014 Legislative Session to reduce vehicle registration fees for all Floridians. This good bill will put up to \$25 back in the pockets of each Florida driver and is a great way to make sure all Floridians benefit from broad tax relief. As a part of Governor Scott's "It's Your Money Tax Cut" that has been wisely embraced by the Legislature, reducing these vehicle registration fees will save Floridians \$394.5 million annually.

"The Legislature and Governor have shown their commitment to returning taxpayers' hard-earned dollars this year, and their bi-partisan support of this important savings opportunity is applauded. Florida's improving economy has made it possible for the 2014 Legislature to reduce these fees, which were increased as a part of the largest tax and fee increase in Florida's history back in 2009. While meeting the critical needs of Floridians, giving this money back to the taxpayers, where it belongs, is a great solution.

"While the Legislature should be applauded for working together to pass these savings on to Florida taxpayers, TaxWatch encourages them to meet Governor Scott's \$500 million tax cut goal with additional broad-based tax relief options, such as reducing

the extremely high Communications Services Tax. A recent Florida TaxWatch report, [How Florida Compares](#), shows that Florida has the fourth-highest Communications Services Tax in the nation, which can be up to 16 percent in some parts of the state. This highly regressive, burdensome tax is hardest on Florida's low-income families, retirees and small businesses, which hampers economic growth and job creation in the state."

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Florida TaxWatch is a statewide, non-profit, non-partisan research institute that over its 32-year history has become widely recognized as the watchdog of citizens' hard-earned tax dollars. Its mission is to provide the citizens of Florida and public officials with high quality, independent research and education on government revenues, expenditures, taxation, public policies and programs and to increase the productivity and accountability of Florida state and local government. Its support comes from homeowners and retirees, small and large businesses, philanthropic foundations, and professional associations. On the web at www.FloridaTaxWatch.org.