

**Sandra P. Nolen**  
**Heard County Tax Commissioner**

**New Legislation from the 2012 Georgia General Assembly**

Effective March 1, 2013, House Bill 386 removes the sales tax and the annual ad valorem tax on newly purchased vehicles; it replaces these taxes with a new title tax of **6.5%** in **2013**, **6.75%** in **2014**, and **7.0%** in **2015**.

Here's what you need to know:

- If you purchase a vehicle on or after March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013, you will pay the new title tax to the tag agent in the County which you register your vehicle.
  - You pay when you apply for the title and register the vehicle.
- The new title tax is not due every year but is due each time the vehicle is sold and titled.
  - This applies to dealer sales as well as sells between individuals.
- The new title tax is based on a percentage (**6.5% in 2013**) of the Fair Market Value, not the sales price of the vehicle as determined by the Georgia Department of Revenue.
- You will continue to pay the annual ad valorem tax on vehicle(s) that you currently own.
- If you purchased a vehicle in Georgia between January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012 and March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013, you have the option of paying the new title tax instead of the current annual ad valorem tax.
  - You have from March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013 until December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2013 to opt into the new program.
  - **NOTE:** Vehicles purchased out of the state of Georgia **ARE NOT ELIGIBLE** to opt in.
- All other existing annual vehicle registration requirements, including annual tag renewal fees, decals, and emission tests (IF APPLICABLE), will remain in effect for all vehicle owners.