

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE · SCRANTON

Scranton Car Registration, Emissions and E-ZPass Guide 2026

For cars brought from another state, cars bought in Pennsylvania, PA Turnpike drivers and bus riders.

SHORT ANSWER

After you settle in Pennsylvania, you have 20 days to register a vehicle. The order is: PA insurance (minimum \$15,000 / \$30,000 / \$5,000), a VIN verification, then title and registration through an authorized agent (a notary, dealer, or messenger service) using Form MV-1. A newly registered vehicle must pass a safety inspection within 10 days. According to PennDOT's Drive Clean PA list, Lackawanna County is one of the emissions-testing counties. The title fee is \$72, annual registration is \$48, and the sales tax is the statewide 6% with no local add-on in Lackawanna County.

Step by step

- 1 Get Pennsylvania insurance.** Minimum liability: \$15,000 per person / \$30,000 per accident bodily injury, \$5,000 property damage, commonly called "15/30/5." Your policy also requires a Limited Tort or Full Tort election: Limited Tort is cheaper but gives up the right to sue for pain and suffering unless a "serious injury" threshold is met; Full Tort keeps that right but costs more.
- 2** Get a VIN verification (by tracing, or verified by an authorized mechanic or notary).
- 3** Complete Form MV-1 (the title application); a leased vehicle also needs Form MV-1L. This form is not self-service online; it is processed through an authorized agent, most commonly a notary, dealer, or messenger service, which usually issues a temporary registration on the spot.
- 4** Bring your out-of-state title, proof of PA insurance (card, declaration page, or a copy of the policy), and lienholder information if applicable, to the agent.
- 5** Once registered, get a safety inspection within 10 days.

Fees (2026)

ITEM	AMOUNT
Title fee, first registration	\$72
Annual passenger vehicle registration	\$48 (a 2-year option is also available)
Lien recording	\$36
Local use fee in some counties	\$5/year

Pennsylvania's sales tax is 6% statewide; local add-ons apply only in Philadelphia (2%) and Allegheny County (1%), so a car bought in Scranton is taxed at the state rate in Lackawanna County. Vehicles you owned for at least 6 months before moving are generally exempt from PA use tax on the transfer.

Inspection: statewide safety and Lackawanna County emissions

- An annual safety inspection is required statewide for every registered vehicle: brakes, lighting, steering, suspension, tires, glass, wipers, mirrors, horn, seat belts, exhaust.
- Emissions testing is required in 25 of Pennsylvania's 67 counties. According to PennDOT's Drive Clean PA program list, Lackawanna County is one of them; the test is done once a year with the safety inspection at a licensed private station. Confirm the station and the rule on PennDOT's emissions page before you go.
- 1975-model-year and newer vehicles up to 9,000 lbs GVW are tested: 1975-1995 models get a visual anti-tampering and gas-cap check, and 1996-and-newer models get an OBD computer diagnostic plus a gas-cap test.

THE 20-DAY RULE FOR NEW RESIDENTS

After you establish Pennsylvania residency (accepting a job, leasing or buying property, or enrolling a dependent in a local school all count), you must title and register your vehicle within 20 days. This is different from the 60-day window for your license, so keep both deadlines in mind separately.

E-ZPass PA and the Northeast Extension (I-476)

The toll road a Scranton driver uses toward Philadelphia, the Lehigh Valley or Wilkes-Barre is the Northeast Extension (I-476) of the PA Turnpike. The nearby toll points are Clarks Summit (exit 131) and Keyser Avenue (exit 122). The Northeast Extension is cashless: Open-Road Tolling, the barrier-free gantry system, has been in place since January 5, 2025. E-ZPass PA drivers pay up to 50% less than Toll By Plate, and there is no stated monthly account fee.

CAR FROM KEYSER AVENUE (EXIT 122), E-ZPASS (2026)	TOLL
To Wyoming Valley (115)	\$1.65
To Wilkes-Barre (105)	\$3.51
To Pocono (95)	\$5.37
To Lehigh Valley (56)	\$11.62
To Mid-County (20), Philadelphia area	\$17.65
To the I-95 Delaware River Bridge (43)	\$23.87

Without E-ZPass you pay the higher Toll By Plate rate. Turnpike rates change every January, so check the current amount on the calculator before you travel: paturndpike.com/toll-calculator.

TOPIC	DETAILS
Open an account	paturndpike.com , the PA Toll Pay app, a Go Pak retailer, or by phone/mail (1-877-736-6727)

TOPIC	DETAILS
Auto-replenishment (bank account)	\$35 per transponder charged when the balance drops to \$10 or less
Without a tag (Toll By Plate)	A plate-photo invoice is mailed to the vehicle's registered owner; pay by check, money order, or credit card

Living without a car: the COLTS bus

Public transit in Scranton is mostly buses run by the County of Lackawanna Transit System (COLTS). Cash fare is \$1.75 one way (transfer 75 cents; without exact change you get a fare card with the balance), a day pass is \$4, 10 rides are \$15.75 and a 31-day pass is \$60. Riders 65 and older ride free (funded by the PA Lottery); accepted proof of age includes a passport, naturalization papers or a green card, and no SSN is required. Information: (570) 346-2061, coltsbus.com. Check routes and times before you go; some routes have no Sunday or holiday service.

NOTE FOR IMMIGRANTS

After you move, update the address on your vehicle registration and your E-ZPass account. If you are subject to the address-reporting requirement, you must also report your new address to USCIS within 10 days (AR-11).



TURKISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY IN SCRANTON

Have a question about your immigration status?

Attorney Asim Clinch serves clients in Scranton and the surrounding area, in Turkish and English.

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