

1-1 By: Bailes, Guillen, Murr H.B. No. 3078
 1-2 (Senate Sponsor - Nichols)
 1-3 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 3, 2021;
 1-4 May 10, 2021, read first time and referred to Committee on
 1-5 Transportation; May 17, 2021, reported favorably by the following
 1-6 vote: Yeas 8, Nays 0; May 17, 2021, sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-8				
1-9	X			
1-10			X	
1-11	X			
1-12	X			
1-13	X			
1-14	X			
1-15	X			
1-16	X			
1-17	X			

1-18 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
 1-19 AN ACT

1-20 relating to the registration of certain motor vehicles as farm or
 1-21 ranch vehicles.

1-22 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-23 SECTION 1. The heading to Section 502.433, Transportation
 1-24 Code, is amended to read as follows:

1-25 Sec. 502.433. FEE: COMMERCIAL FARM OR RANCH MOTOR VEHICLE.

1-26 SECTION 2. Sections 502.433(a) and (d), Transportation
 1-27 Code, are amended to read as follows:

1-28 (a) The registration fee for a commercial motor vehicle as a
 1-29 farm vehicle or ranch vehicle is 50 percent of the applicable fee
 1-30 under Section 502.252 or 502.253, as applicable, if the vehicle's
 1-31 owner will use the vehicle for commercial purposes only to
 1-32 transport:

1-33 (1) the person's own poultry, dairy, livestock,
 1-34 livestock products, timber in its natural state, or farm products
 1-35 to market or another place for sale or processing;

1-36 (2) laborers from their place of residence to the
 1-37 owner's farm or ranch; or

1-38 (3) without charge, materials, tools, equipment, or
 1-39 supplies from the place of purchase or storage to the owner's farm
 1-40 or ranch exclusively for the owner's use or for use on the farm or
 1-41 ranch.

1-42 (d) The department shall provide separate distinguishing
 1-43 license plates for farm and ranch vehicles [a vehicle] registered
 1-44 under this section. The department shall provide a person who
 1-45 registers a vehicle under this section the option of designating
 1-46 the vehicle as a farm vehicle or a ranch vehicle.

1-47 SECTION 3. Section 545.413(e), Transportation Code, is
 1-48 amended to read as follows:

1-49 (e) It is a defense to prosecution under this section that:

1-50 (1) the person possesses a written statement from a
 1-51 licensed physician stating that for a medical reason the person
 1-52 should not wear a safety belt;

1-53 (2) the person presents to the court, not later than
 1-54 the 10th day after the date of the offense, a statement from a
 1-55 licensed physician stating that for a medical reason the person
 1-56 should not wear a safety belt;

1-57 (3) the person is employed by the United States Postal
 1-58 Service and performing a duty for that agency that requires the
 1-59 operator to service postal boxes from a vehicle or that requires
 1-60 frequent entry into and exit from a vehicle;

1-61 (4) the person is engaged in the actual delivery of

2-1 newspapers from a vehicle or is performing newspaper delivery
2-2 duties that require frequent entry into and exit from a vehicle;

2-3 (5) the person is employed by a public or private
2-4 utility company and is engaged in the reading of meters or
2-5 performing a similar duty for that company requiring the operator
2-6 to frequently enter into and exit from a vehicle;

2-7 (6) the person is operating a commercial vehicle
2-8 registered as a farm or ranch vehicle under the provisions of
2-9 Section 502.433 that does not have a gross weight, registered
2-10 weight, or gross weight rating of 48,000 pounds or more; or

2-11 (7) the person is the operator of or a passenger in a
2-12 vehicle used exclusively to transport solid waste and performing
2-13 duties that require frequent entry into and exit from the vehicle.

2-14 SECTION 4. Section 622.074, Transportation Code, is amended
2-15 to read as follows:

2-16 Sec. 622.074. NONAPPLICABILITY OF SUBCHAPTER. This
2-17 subchapter does not apply to:

2-18 (1) farm equipment used for a purpose other than
2-19 construction;

2-20 (2) special mobile equipment owned by a dealer or
2-21 distributor;

2-22 (3) a vehicle used to propel special mobile equipment
2-23 that is registered as a farm or ranch vehicle under Section 502.433;
2-24 or

2-25 (4) equipment while being used by a commercial hauler
2-26 to transport special mobile equipment under hire of a person who
2-27 derives \$500 in gross receipts annually from a farming or ranching
2-28 enterprise.

2-29 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.

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