

By: Eckhardt

S.B. No. 1182

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to motor vehicle registration and license plates.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. The heading to Section 502.094, Transportation Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 502.094. 72- OR 144-HOUR TEMPORARY REGISTRATION PERMITS.

SECTION 2. Section 502.094, Transportation Code, is amended by amending Subsections (a), (b), (c), (e), (f), (g), and (h) and adding Subsection (i) to read as follows:

(a) The department may issue a temporary registration permit [~~in lieu of registration~~] for a commercial motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or motor bus that:

(1) is owned by a resident of the United States, Canada, or the United Mexican States;

(2) is subject to registration in this state; and

(3) is not authorized to travel on a public highway because of the lack of registration in this state or the lack of reciprocity with the state or province in which the vehicle is registered.

(b) A temporary registration permit issued under this section is valid for the period stated on the permit, effective from the date and time shown on the receipt issued as evidence of registration under this section.

1 (c) A person may obtain a temporary registration permit  
2 under this section by:

3 (1) applying to the county assessor-collector or the  
4 department;

5 (2) paying a fee of \$25 for a 72-hour temporary  
6 registration permit or \$50 for a 144-hour temporary registration  
7 permit in the manner prescribed by the department that may include a  
8 service charge for a credit card payment or escrow account;

9 (3) furnishing to the county assessor-collector or the  
10 department evidence of financial responsibility for the vehicle  
11 that complies with Sections 502.046(c) and 601.168(a); and

12 (4) submitting a copy of the applicable federal  
13 declaration form required by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety  
14 Administration or its successor in connection with the importation  
15 of a motor vehicle or motor vehicle equipment subject to the federal  
16 motor vehicle safety, bumper, and theft prevention standards.

17 (e) A vehicle issued a temporary registration permit under  
18 this section is subject to Subchapters B and F, Chapter 548, unless  
19 the vehicle:

20 (1) is registered in another state of the United  
21 States, in a province of Canada, or in a state of the United Mexican  
22 States; or

23 (2) is mobile drilling or servicing equipment used in  
24 the production of gas, crude petroleum, or oil, including a mobile  
25 crane or hoisting equipment, mobile lift equipment, forklift, or  
26 tug.

27 (f) A commercial motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or

1 motor bus apprehended for violating a registration law of this  
2 state:

3 (1) may not be issued a temporary registration permit  
4 under this section; and

5 (2) is immediately subject to registration in this  
6 state.

7 (g) A person who operates a commercial motor vehicle,  
8 trailer, or semitrailer with an expired temporary registration  
9 permit issued under this section is considered to be operating an  
10 unregistered vehicle subject to each penalty prescribed by law.

11 (h) The department may establish one or more escrow accounts  
12 in the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles fund for the prepayment of  
13 a 72-hour [~~permit~~] or [~~a~~] 144-hour temporary registration permit.  
14 Any fee established by the department for the administration of  
15 this subsection shall be administered as required by an agreement  
16 entered into by the department.

17 (i) A temporary registration permit issued under this  
18 section must be carried in the vehicle, or, if the vehicle is a  
19 trailer or semitrailer, in the motor vehicle pulling the trailer or  
20 semitrailer, at all times during the period in which the permit is  
21 valid, including when the vehicle is being operated.

22 SECTION 3. The heading to Section 502.095, Transportation  
23 Code, is amended to read as follows:

24 Sec. 502.095. ONE-TRIP OR 30-DAY TEMPORARY REGISTRATION  
25 [~~TRIP~~] PERMITS.

26 SECTION 4. Section 502.095, Transportation Code, is amended  
27 by amending Subsections (a), (b), (d), (e), (f), and (g) and adding

1 Subsection (h) to read as follows:

2 (a) The department may issue a temporary registration  
3 permit [~~in lieu of registration~~] for a vehicle subject to  
4 registration in this state that is not authorized to travel on a  
5 public highway because of the lack of registration in this state or  
6 the lack of reciprocity with the state or country in which the  
7 vehicle is registered.

8 (b) A temporary registration permit issued under this  
9 section is valid for:

- 10 (1) one trip, as provided by Subsection (c); or  
11 (2) 30 days, as provided by Subsection (d).

12 (d) A 30-day temporary registration permit may be issued  
13 only to a passenger vehicle, a private bus, a trailer or semitrailer  
14 with a gross weight of not more than 10,000 pounds, a light truck,  
15 or a light commercial vehicle with a gross vehicle weight of more  
16 than 10,000 pounds that will operate unladen. A person may obtain  
17 multiple 30-day temporary registration permits. The department may  
18 issue a single registration receipt to apply to all of the periods  
19 for which the vehicle is registered.

20 (e) A vehicle issued a 30-day temporary registration permit  
21 under this section is subject to Subchapters B and F, Chapter 548.

22 (f) A person may obtain a temporary registration permit  
23 under this section by:

- 24 (1) applying as provided by the department to:  
25 (A) the county assessor-collector of the county  
26 in which the vehicle will first be operated on a public highway; or  
27 (B) the department in Austin or at one of the

1 department's vehicle title and registration regional offices;

2 (2) paying a fee, in the manner prescribed by the  
3 department including a registration service charge for a credit  
4 card payment or escrow account of:

5 (A) \$5 for a one-trip permit; or

6 (B) \$25 for each 30-day period; and

7 (3) furnishing evidence of financial responsibility  
8 for the vehicle in a form listed under Section 502.046(c).

9 (g) [~~(f)~~] A registration receipt shall be carried in the  
10 vehicle at all times during the period in which it is valid. The  
11 temporary registration permit [~~temporary tag~~] must contain all  
12 pertinent information required by this section and must be attached  
13 to the vehicle in the license plate display area located at the rear  
14 of the vehicle, so that the entire permit is visible and legible at  
15 all times, including when the vehicle is being operated. If the  
16 vehicle does not have a license plate display area at the rear of  
17 the vehicle, the temporary registration permit [~~displayed in the~~  
18 ~~rear window of the vehicle so that the tag is clearly visible and~~  
19 ~~legible when viewed from the rear of the vehicle. If the vehicle~~  
20 ~~does not have a rear window, the temporary tag~~] must be attached to  
21 [~~on or carried in~~] the vehicle to allow ready inspection. The  
22 registration receipt must be carried, in a manner prescribed by the  
23 department, in the vehicle at all times during the period in which  
24 it is valid.

25 (h) [~~(g)~~] The department may refuse and may instruct a  
26 county assessor-collector to refuse to issue a temporary  
27 registration permit for any vehicle if, in the department's

1 opinion, the vehicle or the owner of the vehicle has been involved  
2 in operations that constitute an abuse of the privilege granted by  
3 this section. A registration issued after notice to a county  
4 assessor-collector under this subsection is void.

5 SECTION 5. Section 502.146(a), Transportation Code, is  
6 amended to read as follows:

7 (a) The department shall issue distinguishing license  
8 plates to a vehicle described by Subsection (b) or (c). The  
9 department may issue distinguishing license plates to a vehicle  
10 with a gross weight of 4,000 pounds or less if the vehicle otherwise  
11 meets the requirements of Subsection (b)(1). The fee for the  
12 license plates is \$5 and shall be deposited to the credit of the  
13 Texas Department of Motor Vehicles fund.

14 SECTION 6. Subchapter D, Chapter 502, Transportation Code,  
15 is amended by adding Section 502.147 to read as follows:

16 Sec. 502.147. CERTAIN FARM TRAILERS, FARM SEMITRAILERS,  
17 FARM TRACTORS, AND IMPLEMENTS OF HUSBANDRY. An owner is not  
18 required to register a farm trailer or farm semitrailer with a gross  
19 weight of 4,000 pounds or less or a farm tractor or an implement of  
20 husbandry if the trailer, semitrailer, tractor, or implement is  
21 operated only temporarily on the highways.

22 SECTION 7. Section 502.410(b), Transportation Code, is  
23 amended to read as follows:

24 (b) Subsection (a) does not apply to a statement or  
25 application filed or given under Section 502.060, 502.092, 502.093,  
26 502.094, 502.095, 504.201, 504.202(b-1), or 504.508 [~~or 504.515~~].

27 SECTION 8. Sections 502.413(e) and (f), Transportation

1 Code, are amended to read as follows:

2 (e) The department shall consult with the Health and Human  
3 [~~Department of Aging and Disability~~] Services Commission in  
4 performing the department's duties under this section.

5 (f) The Special Olympics Texas fund is created as a trust  
6 fund outside the state treasury to be held by the comptroller and  
7 administered by the Health and Human [~~Department of Aging and~~  
8 ~~Disability~~] Services Commission as trustee on behalf of Special  
9 Olympics Texas. The fund is composed of money deposited to the  
10 credit of the fund under this section. Money in the fund shall be  
11 disbursed at least monthly, without appropriation, to Special  
12 Olympics Texas to provide training and athletic competitions for  
13 persons with mental illness and intellectual disabilities.

14 SECTION 9. Section 502.474, Transportation Code, is amended  
15 to read as follows:

16 Sec. 502.474. OPERATION OF ONE-TRIP PERMIT VEHICLE. A  
17 person commits an offense if the person operates a vehicle for which  
18 a one-trip permit is required without the registration receipt and  
19 properly displayed permit [~~temporary tag~~].

20 SECTION 10. Section 504.202(e-1), Transportation Code, is  
21 amended to read as follows:

22 (e-1) Other than license plates issued under Subsection  
23 (h), license plates issued under this section may include, on  
24 request, [+]

25 [~~(1) the emblem of the veteran's branch of service, or~~  
26 [~~(2)~~] one emblem or design from another license plate  
27 to which the person is entitled under Subchapter D [~~Section~~

1 ~~504.308, 504.309, 504.310(b), 504.311, 504.312, 504.313, 504.3135,~~  
2 ~~504.314, 504.315, 504.316, 504.3161, 504.318, 504.319, 504.320,~~  
3 ~~504.323, 504.325, or 504.327].~~

4 SECTION 11. Section 504.3015(a), Transportation Code, is  
5 amended to read as follows:

6 (a) A person applying for a set of license plates under this  
7 subchapter shall pay the registration fee required under Chapter  
8 502 and the applicable special plate fee required under this  
9 section, except that one set of license plates shall be issued  
10 without the payment of the registration fee under:

- 11 (1) Section 504.308;
- 12 (2) Section 504.310(b);
- 13 (3) Section 504.315, other than Subsections (c) and  
14 (q) of that section; ~~and~~
- 15 (4) Section 504.316; and
- 16 (5) Section 504.319.

17 SECTION 12. Section 504.414(b), Transportation Code, is  
18 amended to read as follows:

19 (b) Notwithstanding Section 504.400, the fee for a set of  
20 license plates under this section is \$30. After deduction of the  
21 department's administrative costs in accordance with Section  
22 504.801, the remainder of the fees from the sale of professional  
23 firefighter plates shall be deposited to the credit of an account in  
24 the state treasury to be used by the nominated state agency for the  
25 purpose of making grants to support the activities of an  
26 organization of professional firefighters located in this state  
27 that provides emergency relief and college scholarship funds to the



1 professional firefighters and their dependents.

2 SECTION 13. Section 504.507(b), Transportation Code, is  
3 amended to read as follows:

4 (b) There is no fee for issuance of the license plates. The  
5 department shall:

6 (1) collect any fee that a county imposes under  
7 Chapter 502 [~~this chapter~~] for registration of a forestry vehicle;  
8 and

9 (2) send the fee to the appropriate county for  
10 disposition.

11 SECTION 14. Section 504.512, Transportation Code, is  
12 amended by adding Subsection (b) to read as follows:

13 (b) There is no fee for issuance of the license plates.

14 SECTION 15. Section 504.513, Transportation Code, is  
15 amended by amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsection (c) to  
16 read as follows:

17 (a) The department shall issue specialty license plates  
18 for:

19 (1) volunteer firefighters certified by:

20 (A) the Texas Commission on Fire Protection; or

21 (B) the State Firefighters' [~~Firemen's~~] and Fire  
22 Marshals' Association of Texas; and

23 (2) fire protection personnel as that term is defined  
24 by Section 419.021, Government Code.

25 (c) There is no fee for issuance of the license plates.

26 SECTION 16. Section 504.516, Transportation Code, is  
27 amended by adding Subsection (c) to read as follows:

1        (c) There is no fee for issuance of the license plates.

2        SECTION 17. Section 504.602(b), Transportation Code, is  
3 amended to read as follows:

4        (b) After deduction of the department's administrative  
5 costs, the remainder of the fee for issuance of the license plates  
6 shall be used in connection with the Texas Department of  
7 Transportation's [~~department's~~] litter prevention and community  
8 beautification programs.

9        SECTION 18. The heading to Section 504.610, Transportation  
10 Code, is amended to read as follows:

11        Sec. 504.610. TEXAS AEROSPACE AND AVIATION [~~COMMISSION~~]  
12 LICENSE PLATES.

13        SECTION 19. Section 504.610(a), Transportation Code, is  
14 amended to read as follows:

15        (a) The department may issue specialty license plates in  
16 recognition of [~~the~~] Texas aerospace and aviation [~~Aerospace~~  
17 ~~Commission~~]. The department shall design the license plates in  
18 consultation with the aerospace and aviation office of the Texas  
19 Economic Development and Tourism Office [~~Aerospace Commission~~].

20        SECTION 20. Section 504.619, Transportation Code, is  
21 amended to read as follows:

22        Sec. 504.619. [~~TEXAS COMMISSION FOR THE~~] DEAF AND HARD OF  
23 HEARING SERVICES LICENSE PLATES. (a) The department shall issue  
24 specialty license plates in support of services for persons who are  
25 deaf [~~the Texas Commission for the Deaf~~] and hard [~~Hard~~] of hearing  
26 [~~Hearing~~]. The department shall design the license plates in  
27 consultation with the Health and Human Services [~~Texas~~] Commission

1 ~~[for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing]~~.

2 (b) After deduction of the department's administrative  
3 costs, the remainder of the fee for issuance of the license plates:

4 (1) shall be deposited to the credit of the general  
5 revenue fund; and

6 (2) may be appropriated only to the Health and Human  
7 Services ~~[Texas]~~ Commission ~~[for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing]~~ for  
8 direct services programs, training, and education for persons who  
9 are deaf and hard of hearing.

10 SECTION 21. Section 504.642(b), Transportation Code, is  
11 amended to read as follows:

12 (b) After deduction of the department's administrative  
13 costs, the remainder of the fee for issuance of the license plates  
14 shall be deposited to the credit of an ~~[a special]~~ account created  
15 by the comptroller in the manner provided by Section 504.6012(b)  
16 ~~[for abused and neglected children established at the Department of~~  
17 ~~Protective and Regulatory Services]~~. Money deposited to that ~~[in~~  
18 ~~the]~~ account may be used only by the Department of Family and  
19 Protective ~~[and Regulatory]~~ Services to fund programs and services  
20 supporting abused and neglected children under Section 264.004,  
21 Family Code.

22 SECTION 22. Section 504.851(c), Transportation Code, is  
23 amended to read as follows:

24 (c) Except as otherwise provided by law, the ~~[The]~~ board by  
25 rule shall establish the fees for the issuance or renewal of  
26 souvenir license plates, specialty license plates, or souvenir or  
27 specialty license plates that are personalized that are marketed

1 and sold by the private vendor or hosted on the private vendor's  
2 website. The state's portion of the personalization fee may not be  
3 less than \$40 for each year issued. Other fees must be reasonable  
4 and not less than the amounts necessary to allow the department to  
5 recover all reasonable costs to the department associated with the  
6 evaluation of the competitive sealed proposals received by the  
7 department and with the implementation and enforcement of the  
8 contract, including direct, indirect, and administrative costs. A  
9 fee established under this subsection is in addition to:

10 (1) the registration fee and any optional registration  
11 fee prescribed by this chapter for the vehicle for which specialty  
12 license plates are issued;

13 (2) any additional fee prescribed by this subchapter  
14 for the issuance of specialty license plates for that vehicle; and

15 (3) any additional fee prescribed by this subchapter  
16 for the issuance of personalized license plates for that vehicle.

17 SECTION 23. Section 504.943(b), Transportation Code, is  
18 amended to read as follows:

19 (b) A person commits an offense if the person operates on a  
20 public highway during a registration period a road tractor, truck  
21 tractor, motorcycle, trailer, or semitrailer that does not display  
22 a license plate that:

23 (1) has been assigned by the department for the  
24 period; and

25 (2) complies with department rules regarding the  
26 placement of license plates.

27 SECTION 24. Section 504.515, Transportation Code, is

1 repealed.

2           SECTION 25. Section 504.943, Transportation Code, as  
3 amended by this Act, applies only to an offense committed on or  
4 after the effective date of this Act. An offense committed before  
5 the effective date of this Act is governed by the law in effect on  
6 the date the offense was committed, and the former law is continued  
7 in effect for that purpose. For purposes of this section, an  
8 offense was committed before the effective date of this Act if any  
9 element of the offense occurred before that date.

10           SECTION 26. To the extent of any conflict, this Act prevails  
11 over another Act of the 88th Legislature, Regular Session, 2023,  
12 relating to nonsubstantive additions to and corrections in enacted  
13 codes.

14           SECTION 27. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.