

1-1 By: Eckhardt S.B. No. 1182
 1-2 (In the Senate - Filed February 24, 2023; March 9, 2023,
 1-3 read first time and referred to Committee on Transportation;
 1-4 April 5, 2023, reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 9,
 1-5 Nays 0; April 5, 2023, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-7				
1-8	X			
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 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
 1-18 AN ACT

1-19 relating to motor vehicle registration and license plates.
 1-20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:
 1-21 SECTION 1. The heading to Section 502.094, Transportation
 1-22 Code, is amended to read as follows:
 1-23 Sec. 502.094. 72- OR 144-HOUR TEMPORARY REGISTRATION
 1-24 PERMITS.
 1-25 SECTION 2. Section 502.094, Transportation Code, is amended
 1-26 by amending Subsections (a), (b), (c), (e), (f), (g), and (h) and
 1-27 adding Subsection (i) to read as follows:
 1-28 (a) The department may issue a temporary registration
 1-29 permit [~~in lieu of registration~~] for a commercial motor vehicle,
 1-30 trailer, semitrailer, or motor bus that:
 1-31 (1) is owned by a resident of the United States,
 1-32 Canada, or the United Mexican States;
 1-33 (2) is subject to registration in this state; and
 1-34 (3) is not authorized to travel on a public highway
 1-35 because of the lack of registration in this state or the lack of
 1-36 reciprocity with the state or province in which the vehicle is
 1-37 registered.
 1-38 (b) A temporary registration permit issued under this
 1-39 section is valid for the period stated on the permit, effective from
 1-40 the date and time shown on the receipt issued as evidence of
 1-41 registration under this section.
 1-42 (c) A person may obtain a temporary registration permit
 1-43 under this section by:
 1-44 (1) applying to the county assessor-collector or the
 1-45 department;
 1-46 (2) paying a fee of \$25 for a 72-hour temporary
 1-47 registration permit or \$50 for a 144-hour temporary registration
 1-48 permit in the manner prescribed by the department that may include a
 1-49 service charge for a credit card payment or escrow account;
 1-50 (3) furnishing to the county assessor-collector or the
 1-51 department evidence of financial responsibility for the vehicle
 1-52 that complies with Sections 502.046(c) and 601.168(a); and
 1-53 (4) submitting a copy of the applicable federal
 1-54 declaration form required by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety
 1-55 Administration or its successor in connection with the importation
 1-56 of a motor vehicle or motor vehicle equipment subject to the federal
 1-57 motor vehicle safety, bumper, and theft prevention standards.
 1-58 (e) A vehicle issued a temporary registration permit under
 1-59 this section is subject to Subchapters B and F, Chapter 548, unless
 1-60 the vehicle:
 1-61 (1) is registered in another state of the United

2-1 States, in a province of Canada, or in a state of the United Mexican
2-2 States; or
2-3 (2) is mobile drilling or servicing equipment used in
2-4 the production of gas, crude petroleum, or oil, including a mobile
2-5 crane or hoisting equipment, mobile lift equipment, forklift, or
2-6 tug.
2-7 (f) A commercial motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or
2-8 motor bus apprehended for violating a registration law of this
2-9 state:
2-10 (1) may not be issued a temporary registration permit
2-11 under this section; and
2-12 (2) is immediately subject to registration in this
2-13 state.
2-14 (g) A person who operates a commercial motor vehicle,
2-15 trailer, or semitrailer with an expired temporary registration
2-16 permit issued under this section is considered to be operating an
2-17 unregistered vehicle subject to each penalty prescribed by law.
2-18 (h) The department may establish one or more escrow accounts
2-19 in the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles fund for the prepayment of
2-20 a 72-hour [~~permit~~] or [~~a~~] 144-hour temporary registration permit.
2-21 Any fee established by the department for the administration of
2-22 this subsection shall be administered as required by an agreement
2-23 entered into by the department.
2-24 (i) A temporary registration permit issued under this
2-25 section must be carried in the vehicle, or, if the vehicle is a
2-26 trailer or semitrailer, in the motor vehicle pulling the trailer or
2-27 semitrailer, at all times during the period in which the permit is
2-28 valid, including when the vehicle is being operated.
2-29 SECTION 3. The heading to Section 502.095, Transportation
2-30 Code, is amended to read as follows:
2-31 Sec. 502.095. ONE-TRIP OR 30-DAY TEMPORARY REGISTRATION
2-32 [TRIP] PERMITS.
2-33 SECTION 4. Section 502.095, Transportation Code, is amended
2-34 by amending Subsections (a), (b), (d), (e), (f), and (g) and adding
2-35 Subsection (h) to read as follows:
2-36 (a) The department may issue a temporary registration
2-37 permit [~~in lieu of registration~~] for a vehicle subject to
2-38 registration in this state that is not authorized to travel on a
2-39 public highway because of the lack of registration in this state or
2-40 the lack of reciprocity with the state or country in which the
2-41 vehicle is registered.
2-42 (b) A temporary registration permit issued under this
2-43 section is valid for:
2-44 (1) one trip, as provided by Subsection (c); or
2-45 (2) 30 days, as provided by Subsection (d).
2-46 (d) A 30-day temporary registration permit may be issued
2-47 only to a passenger vehicle, a private bus, a trailer or semitrailer
2-48 with a gross weight of not more than 10,000 pounds, a light truck,
2-49 or a light commercial vehicle with a gross vehicle weight of more
2-50 than 10,000 pounds that will operate unladen. A person may obtain
2-51 multiple 30-day temporary registration permits. The department may
2-52 issue a single registration receipt to apply to all of the periods
2-53 for which the vehicle is registered.
2-54 (e) A vehicle issued a 30-day temporary registration permit
2-55 under this section is subject to Subchapters B and F, Chapter 548.
2-56 (f) A person may obtain a temporary registration permit
2-57 under this section by:
2-58 (1) applying as provided by the department to:
2-59 (A) the county assessor-collector of the county
2-60 in which the vehicle will first be operated on a public highway; or
2-61 (B) the department in Austin or at one of the
2-62 department's vehicle title and registration regional offices;
2-63 (2) paying a fee, in the manner prescribed by the
2-64 department including a registration service charge for a credit
2-65 card payment or escrow account of:
2-66 (A) \$5 for a one-trip permit; or
2-67 (B) \$25 for each 30-day period; and
2-68 (3) furnishing evidence of financial responsibility
2-69 for the vehicle in a form listed under Section 502.046(c).

3-1 (g) [~~(f)~~] A registration receipt shall be carried in the
 3-2 vehicle at all times during the period in which it is valid. The
 3-3 temporary registration permit [~~temporary tag~~] must contain all
 3-4 pertinent information required by this section and must be attached
 3-5 to the vehicle in the license plate display area located at the rear
 3-6 of the vehicle, so that the entire permit is visible and legible at
 3-7 all times, including when the vehicle is being operated. If the
 3-8 vehicle does not have a license plate display area at the rear of
 3-9 the vehicle, the temporary registration permit [~~displayed in the~~
 3-10 ~~rear window of the vehicle so that the tag is clearly visible and~~
 3-11 ~~legible when viewed from the rear of the vehicle. If the vehicle~~
 3-12 ~~does not have a rear window, the temporary tag~~] must be attached to
 3-13 [~~on or carried in~~] the vehicle to allow ready inspection. The
 3-14 registration receipt must be carried, in a manner prescribed by the
 3-15 department, in the vehicle at all times during the period in which
 3-16 it is valid.

3-17 (h) [~~(g)~~] The department may refuse and may instruct a
 3-18 county assessor-collector to refuse to issue a temporary
 3-19 registration permit for any vehicle if, in the department's
 3-20 opinion, the vehicle or the owner of the vehicle has been involved
 3-21 in operations that constitute an abuse of the privilege granted by
 3-22 this section. A registration issued after notice to a county
 3-23 assessor-collector under this subsection is void.

3-24 SECTION 5. Section 502.146(a), Transportation Code, is
 3-25 amended to read as follows:

3-26 (a) The department shall issue distinguishing license
 3-27 plates to a vehicle described by Subsection (b) or (c). The
 3-28 department may issue distinguishing license plates to a vehicle
 3-29 with a gross weight of 4,000 pounds or less if the vehicle otherwise
 3-30 meets the requirements of Subsection (b)(1). The fee for the
 3-31 license plates is \$5 and shall be deposited to the credit of the
 3-32 Texas Department of Motor Vehicles fund.

3-33 SECTION 6. Subchapter D, Chapter 502, Transportation Code,
 3-34 is amended by adding Section 502.147 to read as follows:

3-35 Sec. 502.147. CERTAIN FARM TRAILERS, FARM SEMITRAILERS,
 3-36 FARM TRACTORS, AND IMPLEMENTS OF HUSBANDRY. An owner is not
 3-37 required to register a farm trailer or farm semitrailer with a gross
 3-38 weight of 4,000 pounds or less or a farm tractor or an implement of
 3-39 husbandry if the trailer, semitrailer, tractor, or implement is
 3-40 operated only temporarily on the highways.

3-41 SECTION 7. Section 502.410(b), Transportation Code, is
 3-42 amended to read as follows:

3-43 (b) Subsection (a) does not apply to a statement or
 3-44 application filed or given under Section 502.060, 502.092, 502.093,
 3-45 502.094, 502.095, 504.201, 504.202(b-1), or 504.508 [~~or 504.515~~].

3-46 SECTION 8. Sections 502.413(e) and (f), Transportation
 3-47 Code, are amended to read as follows:

3-48 (e) The department shall consult with the Health and Human
 3-49 [~~Department of Aging and Disability~~] Services Commission in
 3-50 performing the department's duties under this section.

3-51 (f) The Special Olympics Texas fund is created as a trust
 3-52 fund outside the state treasury to be held by the comptroller and
 3-53 administered by the Health and Human [~~Department of Aging and~~
 3-54 ~~Disability~~] Services Commission as trustee on behalf of Special
 3-55 Olympics Texas. The fund is composed of money deposited to the
 3-56 credit of the fund under this section. Money in the fund shall be
 3-57 disbursed at least monthly, without appropriation, to Special
 3-58 Olympics Texas to provide training and athletic competitions for
 3-59 persons with mental illness and intellectual disabilities.

3-60 SECTION 9. Section 502.474, Transportation Code, is amended
 3-61 to read as follows:

3-62 Sec. 502.474. OPERATION OF ONE-TRIP PERMIT VEHICLE. A
 3-63 person commits an offense if the person operates a vehicle for which
 3-64 a one-trip permit is required without the registration receipt and
 3-65 properly displayed permit [~~temporary tag~~].

3-66 SECTION 10. Section 504.202(e-1), Transportation Code, is
 3-67 amended to read as follows:

3-68 (e-1) Other than license plates issued under Subsection
 3-69 (h), license plates issued under this section may include, on

4-1 request, ~~[+]~~
 4-2 ~~[(1) the emblem of the veteran's branch of service, or~~
 4-3 ~~[(2)] one emblem or design from another license plate~~
 4-4 to which the person is entitled under Subchapter D ~~[Section~~
 4-5 ~~504.308, 504.309, 504.310(b), 504.311, 504.312, 504.313, 504.3135,~~
 4-6 ~~504.314, 504.315, 504.316, 504.3161, 504.318, 504.319, 504.320,~~
 4-7 ~~504.323, 504.325, or 504.327].~~

4-8 SECTION 11. Section 504.3015(a), Transportation Code, is
 4-9 amended to read as follows:

4-10 (a) A person applying for a set of license plates under this
 4-11 subchapter shall pay the registration fee required under Chapter
 4-12 502 and the applicable special plate fee required under this
 4-13 section, except that one set of license plates shall be issued
 4-14 without the payment of the registration fee under:

- 4-15 (1) Section 504.308;
- 4-16 (2) Section 504.310(b);
- 4-17 (3) Section 504.315, other than Subsections (c) and
 4-18 (q) of that section; ~~and~~
- 4-19 (4) Section 504.316; and
- 4-20 (5) Section 504.319.

4-21 SECTION 12. Section 504.414(b), Transportation Code, is
 4-22 amended to read as follows:

4-23 (b) Notwithstanding Section 504.400, the fee for a set of
 4-24 license plates under this section is \$30. After deduction of the
 4-25 department's administrative costs in accordance with Section
 4-26 504.801, the remainder of the fees from the sale of professional
 4-27 firefighter plates shall be deposited to the credit of an account in
 4-28 the state treasury to be used by the nominated state agency for the
 4-29 purpose of making grants to support the activities of an
 4-30 organization of professional firefighters located in this state
 4-31 that provides emergency relief and college scholarship funds to the
 4-32 professional firefighters and their dependents.

4-33 SECTION 13. Section 504.507(b), Transportation Code, is
 4-34 amended to read as follows:

4-35 (b) There is no fee for issuance of the license plates. The
 4-36 department shall:

- 4-37 (1) collect any fee that a county imposes under
 4-38 Chapter 502 ~~[this chapter]~~ for registration of a forestry vehicle;
 4-39 and
- 4-40 (2) send the fee to the appropriate county for
 4-41 disposition.

4-42 SECTION 14. Section 504.512, Transportation Code, is
 4-43 amended by adding Subsection (b) to read as follows:

4-44 (b) There is no fee for issuance of the license plates.

4-45 SECTION 15. Section 504.513, Transportation Code, is
 4-46 amended by amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsection (c) to
 4-47 read as follows:

4-48 (a) The department shall issue specialty license plates
 4-49 for:

- 4-50 (1) volunteer firefighters certified by:
 - 4-51 (A) the Texas Commission on Fire Protection; or
 - 4-52 (B) the State Firefighters' ~~[Firemen's]~~ and Fire
 4-53 Marshals' Association of Texas; and

4-54 (2) fire protection personnel as that term is defined
 4-55 by Section 419.021, Government Code.

4-56 (c) There is no fee for issuance of the license plates.

4-57 SECTION 16. Section 504.516, Transportation Code, is
 4-58 amended by adding Subsection (c) to read as follows:

4-59 (c) There is no fee for issuance of the license plates.

4-60 SECTION 17. Section 504.602(b), Transportation Code, is
 4-61 amended to read as follows:

4-62 (b) After deduction of the department's administrative
 4-63 costs, the remainder of the fee for issuance of the license plates
 4-64 shall be used in connection with the Texas Department of
 4-65 Transportation's ~~[department's]~~ litter prevention and community
 4-66 beautification programs.

4-67 SECTION 18. The heading to Section 504.610, Transportation
 4-68 Code, is amended to read as follows:

4-69 Sec. 504.610. TEXAS AEROSPACE AND AVIATION ~~[COMMISSION]~~

5-1 LICENSE PLATES.

5-2 SECTION 19. Section 504.610(a), Transportation Code, is
5-3 amended to read as follows:

5-4 (a) The department may issue specialty license plates in
5-5 recognition of ~~[the]~~ Texas aerospace and aviation ~~[Aerospace~~
5-6 ~~Commission]~~. The department shall design the license plates in
5-7 consultation with the aerospace and aviation office of the Texas
5-8 Economic Development and Tourism Office ~~[Aerospace Commission]~~.

5-9 SECTION 20. Section 504.619, Transportation Code, is
5-10 amended to read as follows:

5-11 Sec. 504.619. ~~[TEXAS COMMISSION FOR THE]~~ DEAF AND HARD OF
5-12 HEARING SERVICES LICENSE PLATES. (a) The department shall issue
5-13 specialty license plates in support of services for persons who are
5-14 deaf ~~[the Texas Commission for the Deaf]~~ and hard ~~[Hard]~~ of hearing
5-15 ~~[Hearing]~~. The department shall design the license plates in
5-16 consultation with the Health and Human Services ~~[Texas]~~ Commission
5-17 ~~[for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing]~~.

5-18 (b) After deduction of the department's administrative
5-19 costs, the remainder of the fee for issuance of the license plates:

5-20 (1) shall be deposited to the credit of the general
5-21 revenue fund; and

5-22 (2) may be appropriated only to the Health and Human
5-23 Services ~~[Texas]~~ Commission ~~[for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing]~~ for
5-24 direct services programs, training, and education for persons who
5-25 are deaf and hard of hearing.

5-26 SECTION 21. Section 504.642(b), Transportation Code, is
5-27 amended to read as follows:

5-28 (b) After deduction of the department's administrative
5-29 costs, the remainder of the fee for issuance of the license plates
5-30 shall be deposited to the credit of an ~~[a special]~~ account created
5-31 by the comptroller in the manner provided by Section 504.6012(b)
5-32 ~~[for abused and neglected children established at the Department of~~
5-33 ~~Protective and Regulatory Services]~~. Money deposited to that ~~[in~~
5-34 ~~the]~~ account may be used only by the Department of Family and
5-35 Protective ~~[and Regulatory]~~ Services to fund programs and services
5-36 supporting abused and neglected children under Section 264.004,
5-37 Family Code.

5-38 SECTION 22. Section 504.851(c), Transportation Code, is
5-39 amended to read as follows:

5-40 (c) Except as otherwise provided by law, the ~~[The]~~ board by
5-41 rule shall establish the fees for the issuance or renewal of
5-42 souvenir license plates, specialty license plates, or souvenir or
5-43 specialty license plates that are personalized that are marketed
5-44 and sold by the private vendor or hosted on the private vendor's
5-45 website. The state's portion of the personalization fee may not be
5-46 less than \$40 for each year issued. Other fees must be reasonable
5-47 and not less than the amounts necessary to allow the department to
5-48 recover all reasonable costs to the department associated with the
5-49 evaluation of the competitive sealed proposals received by the
5-50 department and with the implementation and enforcement of the
5-51 contract, including direct, indirect, and administrative costs. A
5-52 fee established under this subsection is in addition to:

5-53 (1) the registration fee and any optional registration
5-54 fee prescribed by this chapter for the vehicle for which specialty
5-55 license plates are issued;

5-56 (2) any additional fee prescribed by this subchapter
5-57 for the issuance of specialty license plates for that vehicle; and

5-58 (3) any additional fee prescribed by this subchapter
5-59 for the issuance of personalized license plates for that vehicle.

5-60 SECTION 23. Section 504.943(b), Transportation Code, is
5-61 amended to read as follows:

5-62 (b) A person commits an offense if the person operates on a
5-63 public highway during a registration period a road tractor, truck
5-64 tractor, motorcycle, trailer, or semitrailer that does not display
5-65 a license plate that:

5-66 (1) has been assigned by the department for the
5-67 period; and

5-68 (2) complies with department rules regarding the
5-69 placement of license plates.

6-1 SECTION 24. Section 504.515, Transportation Code, is
6-2 repealed.

6-3 SECTION 25. Section 504.943, Transportation Code, as
6-4 amended by this Act, applies only to an offense committed on or
6-5 after the effective date of this Act. An offense committed before
6-6 the effective date of this Act is governed by the law in effect on
6-7 the date the offense was committed, and the former law is continued
6-8 in effect for that purpose. For purposes of this section, an
6-9 offense was committed before the effective date of this Act if any
6-10 element of the offense occurred before that date.

6-11 SECTION 26. To the extent of any conflict, this Act prevails
6-12 over another Act of the 88th Legislature, Regular Session, 2023,
6-13 relating to nonsubstantive additions to and corrections in enacted
6-14 codes.

6-15 SECTION 27. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.

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