

By: Geren

H.B. No. 3425

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the use of certain exhibition vehicles.

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

SECTION 1. Section 504.502, Transportation Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 504.502. CERTAIN EXHIBITION VEHICLES;
OFFENSE. (a) The department shall issue specialty license plates for a passenger car, truck, motorcycle, or former military vehicle that:

(1) is at least 25 years old, if the vehicle is a passenger car, truck, or motorcycle;

(2) is a collector's item;

(3) is used exclusively for exhibitions, club activities, parades, and other functions of public interest and is not used for regular transportation; and

(4) does not carry advertising.

(b) The license plates must include the words "Antique Auto," "Antique Truck," "Antique Motorcycle," or "Military Vehicle," as appropriate.

(c) A person eligible for the license plates may instead use license plates issued by this state in the same year as the model year of the vehicle and approved by the department, provided that a passenger car must bear passenger car or truck license plates and a truck must bear passenger car or truck license plates. The

1 department may require attachment of a registration insignia to the
2 license plate in a manner that does not affect the display of
3 information originally on the license plate.

4 (d) License plates issued or approved under this section
5 expire on the fifth anniversary of the date of issuance or approval.

6 (e) The fee for issuance or approval of license plates under
7 this section is:

8 (1) \$10 for each year or portion of a year remaining in
9 the five-year registration period if the vehicle was manufactured
10 in 1921 or later; or

11 (2) \$8 for each year or portion of a year remaining in
12 the five-year registration period if the vehicle was manufactured
13 before 1921.

14 (f) The department may exempt a former military vehicle from
15 the requirement to display a license plate or registration insignia
16 if the exemption is necessary to maintain the vehicle's accurate
17 military markings. The department may approve an alternative
18 registration insignia that is compatible with the vehicle's
19 original markings.

20 (g) A person entitled to specialty license plates or to
21 department approval under this section may register the vehicle
22 without payment of any fees paid for or at the time of registration
23 except the fee for the license plate. An owner of a vehicle
24 registered under this subsection who violates this section commits
25 an offense. An offense under this section is a misdemeanor
26 punishable by a fine of not less than \$5 or more than \$200.

27 (h) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a vehicle

1 issued license plates under Subsection (a) shall be required to
2 attach and display only one license plate on the rear of the
3 vehicle.

4 (i) In this section, "former military vehicle" means a
5 vehicle, including a trailer, regardless of the vehicle's size,
6 weight, or year of manufacture, that:

7 (1) was manufactured for use in any country's military
8 forces; and

9 (2) is maintained to represent its military design and
10 markings accurately.

11 (j) It is an affirmative defense to prosecution under this
12 section that a vehicle is in route to or from a location for the
13 purpose of routine maintenance.

14 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2005.