

By: Deuell

S.B. No. 1268

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the transfer of vehicle registration and license plates between vehicles with the same owner.

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

SECTION 1. Section 502.180(b), Transportation Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b) Subject to Subchapter I, the ~~[The]~~ department shall issue only one license plate or set of plates for a vehicle during a five-year period.

SECTION 2. Chapter 502, Transportation Code, is amended by adding Subchapter I to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER I. REGISTRATION EXPIRATION OR TRANSFER

UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES AND TRANSFER

OF LICENSE PLATES

Sec. 502.451. EXPIRATION OF REGISTRATION ON TRANSFER OR DESTRUCTION OF VEHICLE. (a) Notwithstanding Section 502.158, a vehicle's registration expires on the date on which:

(1) ownership of the vehicle is transferred; or

(2) the vehicle is destroyed.

(b) The transferor of a transferred vehicle or the owner of a destroyed vehicle shall remove the license plates from the transferred or destroyed vehicle and:

(1) surrender the plates to the department; or

(2) transfer the plates to another vehicle under

1 Section 502.454.

2 Sec. 502.452. REGISTRATION OF VEHICLE WITH JOINT OWNERS.

3 The registration of a vehicle registered in the names of two or more
4 persons, as partners or otherwise, does not expire on a change in
5 ownership of the vehicle as long as any of the persons named in the
6 registration as owners of the vehicle is the owner or part owner of
7 the vehicle. If any change in the ownership of the vehicle occurs
8 and the registration does not expire, the owner or owners must:

9 (1) file with the department a statement of the
10 ownership of the vehicle as required by department rule; and

11 (2) pay a fee of \$7.75.

12 Sec. 502.453. PLATES ON VEHICLE TAKEN OUT OF STATE. If a
13 vehicle is permanently removed from this state, the owner may
14 remove the license plates from that vehicle and may use the plates
15 on another vehicle as provided by Section 502.454.

16 Sec. 502.454. TRANSFER OF REMOVED PLATES. (a) A person may
17 use license plates removed from a vehicle under Section 502.451 or
18 502.453 on another vehicle currently registered to the person if
19 the person, when registering the vehicle:

20 (1) submits an application on a form prescribed by the
21 department;

22 (2) pays a transfer fee of \$7.75; and

23 (3) pays the amount, if any, that the annual fee for
24 registration of the vehicle exceeds the annual fee for the
25 registration of the vehicle from which the plates were removed for
26 each day or fraction of a day remaining in the unexpired
27 registration period.

1 (b) The department shall issue a new registration insignia
2 for a vehicle to which license plates are transferred under this
3 section.

4 (c) If the license plates of the vehicle from which the
5 plates were removed are not appropriate for the vehicle being
6 registered, the department shall, on surrender of the inappropriate
7 plates, issue appropriate license plates.

8 Sec. 502.455. TRANSFER OF PLATES BETWEEN VEHICLES WITH SAME
9 OWNER. (a) The owner of a registered vehicle may transfer the
10 registration and, if appropriate, the plates of the vehicle to a
11 second vehicle owned by the person if the person:

12 (1) submits an application on a form prescribed by the
13 department;

14 (2) pays a transfer fee of \$7.75; and

15 (3) pays the amount, if any, that the annual fee for
16 registration of the vehicle exceeds the annual fee for the
17 registration of the second vehicle for each day or fraction of a day
18 remaining in the unexpired registration period.

19 (b) A person who transfers registration under Subsection
20 (a) must:

21 (1) cancel the registration for the second vehicle and
22 surrender the plates on the second vehicle to the department; or

23 (2) transfer the registration and plates on the second
24 vehicle to a third vehicle.

25 (c) The department shall issue a new registration insignia
26 for a vehicle to which license plates are transferred under this
27 section.

1 (d) If the license plates of one vehicle are not appropriate
2 for another vehicle, the department shall, on surrender of the
3 inappropriate license plates, issue appropriate license plates.

4 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2005.