

By: Goolsby

H.B. No. 310

Substitute the following for H.B. No. 310:

By: Harless

C.S.H.B. No. 310

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

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

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter H, Chapter 201, Transportation Code, is amended by adding Section 201.620 to read as follows:

Sec. 201.620. ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION AND TITLE SYSTEM.

(a) Notwithstanding any provision of Chapter 501 or 502 to the contrary, the department by rule may implement an electronic registration and title system:

(1) that facilitates vehicle registration, including the transfer of license plates under Subchapter I, Chapter 502; and

(2) in which the title record maintained by the department is the official record of vehicle ownership.

(b) The system authorized by Subsection (a) may be separate from or a part of the department's automated registration and title system.

SECTION 2. 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 3. Chapter 502, Transportation Code, is amended by adding Subchapter I to read as follows:

1 SUBCHAPTER I. REGISTRATION TRANSFER AND REMOVAL OF LICENSE PLATES

2 FOR THE SALE OR TRANSFER OF USED VEHICLES

3 Sec. 502.451. TRANSFER OF VEHICLE REGISTRATION AND REMOVAL
4 OF LICENSE PLATES. (a) On the sale or transfer of a motor vehicle,
5 the seller or transferor shall remove each license plate and the
6 registration insignia issued for the motor vehicle.

7 (b) A license plate removed from a motor vehicle under
8 Subsection (a) must be:

9 (1) disposed of in the manner specified by the
10 department; or

11 (2) transferred to another vehicle owned by the seller
12 or transferor as provided by Section 502.453.

13 (c) The part of the registration period remaining at the
14 time of the sale or transfer shall continue with the vehicle being
15 sold or transferred and does not transfer with the license plates or
16 registration validation insignia. To continue the remainder of the
17 registration period, the purchaser or transferee must file the
18 documents required under Section 520.031.

19 Sec. 502.452. REGISTRATION OF VEHICLE WITH JOINT OWNERS.
20 Notwithstanding Section 502.451, if a motor vehicle is registered
21 in the names of two or more persons, the license plates and
22 registration insignia are not required to be removed on the change
23 of ownership of the vehicle if any of the resultant owners is a
24 person named in the registration records of the department as an
25 owner of the vehicle at the time of its sale or transfer.

26 Sec. 502.453. TRANSFER OF REMOVED PLATES. (a) A person may
27 use license plates removed from a vehicle under Section 502.451 on

1 another motor vehicle that is titled in the person's name after the
2 person:

3 (1) obtains:

4 (A) the department's approval of an application
5 to transfer the license plates; and

6 (B) a new registration insignia for the motor
7 vehicle; and

8 (2) pays the appropriate fees required under Section
9 502.454.

10 (b) A person may use the license plates removed from a motor
11 vehicle under Section 502.451 on a new motor vehicle purchased from
12 a dealer licensed under Chapter 503 after the person:

13 (1) obtains the department's approval of a title and
14 registration application; and

15 (2) pays the applicable title and vehicle registration
16 fees and the transfer fee required under Section 502.454.

17 Sec. 502.454. FEES REQUIRED FOR TRANSFER OF LICENSE PLATE
18 AND REGISTRATION INSIGNIA. The fee for transferring license plates
19 and receiving a new registration insignia under this subchapter
20 from one motor vehicle to another vehicle that is titled in the name
21 of the transferor is \$5.00.

22 Sec. 502.455. TEMPORARY PERMIT FOR A VEHICLE PURCHASED IN A
23 PRIVATE PARTY TRANSACTION. (a) A purchaser or transferee may
24 obtain from the department a temporary single-trip permit to
25 operate a motor vehicle:

26 (1) that is subject to registration in this state;

27 (2) from which the license plates and the registration

1 insignia have been removed as required by Section 502.451; and

2 (3) that is not authorized to travel on a public
3 roadway because the required license plates and the registration
4 insignia are not attached to the vehicle.

5 (b) The department may issue the permit in accordance with
6 this section.

7 (c) A permit issued under this section is valid for one trip
8 between the point of origin and the destination and those
9 intermediate points specified in the permit.

10 (d) A permit issued under this section may not be valid for
11 longer than a five-day period.

12 (e) A person may obtain a permit under this section by
13 applying, on a form provided by the department, to the department.
14 Application may be made using the department's Internet website.

15 (f) A person is eligible to receive only one permit under
16 this section for a motor vehicle.

17 (g) A permit receipt issued under this section must be on a
18 form provided by the department. The receipt must contain the
19 information required by this section and shall be carried in the
20 vehicle at all times during which it is valid.

21 (h) The department may refuse to issue a permit under this
22 section for any vehicle if in the department's opinion the
23 applicant has been involved in operations that constitute an abuse
24 of the privilege granted under this section.

25 Sec. 502.456. APPLICATION OF SUBCHAPTER; TEMPORARY
26 PROVISION. (a) This subchapter applies only to passenger cars and
27 light trucks.

1 (b) To be eligible for transfer under this subchapter,
2 license plates must be appropriate for the class of vehicle to which
3 the plates are being transferred.

4 (c) This section expires August 31, 2011.

5 SECTION 4. Section 520.021, Transportation Code, is
6 repealed.

7 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect January 1, 2008.