

By: Watson

S.B. No. 1759

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the extended registration of a commercial fleet of motor vehicles.

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

SECTION 1. Section 502.001, Transportation Code, is amended by adding Subdivision (1-a) to read as follows:

(1-a) "Commercial fleet" means a group of at least 25 nonapportioned motor vehicles owned by a corporation, limited or general partnership, limited liability company, or other business entity and used for the business purposes of that entity.

SECTION 2. Subchapter A, Chapter 502, Transportation Code, is amended by adding Section 502.0023 to read as follows:

Sec. 502.0023. EXTENDED REGISTRATION OF COMMERCIAL FLEET MOTOR VEHICLES. (a) Notwithstanding Section 502.158(c), the department shall develop and implement a system of registration to allow an owner of a commercial fleet to register the motor vehicles in the commercial fleet for an extended registration period of not less than one year or more than eight years. The owner may select the number of years for registration under this section within that range and register the commercial fleet for that period. Payment for all registration fees for the entire registration period selected is due at the time of registration.

(b) In addition to the registration fees prescribed by Subchapter D, an owner registering a commercial fleet under this

1 section shall pay:

2 (1) an annual commercial fleet registration fee of \$10
3 per motor vehicle in the fleet; and

4 (2) a one-time license plate manufacturing fee of
5 \$1.50 for each fleet motor vehicle license plate.

6 (c) A license plate issued under this section:

7 (1) may, on request of the owner, include the name or
8 logo of the business entity that owns the vehicle;

9 (2) must include the expiration date of the
10 registration period; and

11 (3) does not require an annual registration insignia
12 to be valid.

13 (d) If a motor vehicle registered under this section has a
14 gross weight in excess of 10,000 pounds, the department shall also
15 issue a registration card for the vehicle that is valid for the
16 selected registration period.

17 (e) The department shall adopt rules to implement this
18 section, including rules on suspension from the commercial fleet
19 program for failure to comply with this section or rules adopted
20 under this section.

21 (f) The department and the counties in their budgeting
22 processes shall consider any temporary increases and resulting
23 decreases in revenue that will result from the use of the process
24 provided under this section.

25 SECTION 3. Subsection (b), Section 501.0234,
26 Transportation Code, is amended to read as follows:

27 (b) This section does not apply to a motor vehicle:

1 (1) that has been declared a total loss by an insurance
2 company in the settlement or adjustment of a claim;

3 (2) for which the certificate of title has been
4 surrendered in exchange for:

5 (A) a salvage vehicle title issued under this
6 chapter;

7 (B) a nonrepairable vehicle title issued under
8 this chapter;

9 (C) a certificate of authority issued under
10 Subchapter D, Chapter 683; or

11 (D) an ownership document issued by another state
12 that is comparable to a document described by Paragraphs (A)-(C);
13 [~~or~~]

14 (3) with a gross weight in excess of 11,000 pounds; or

15 (4) purchased by a fleet buyer who is a full-service
16 deputy under Section 502.114 and who utilizes the dealer title
17 application process developed to provide a method to submit title
18 transactions to the county in which the fleet buyer is a
19 full-service deputy.

20 SECTION 4. The Texas Department of Transportation shall
21 adopt the rules and establish the system required under Section
22 502.0023, Transportation Code, as added by this Act, not later than
23 September 1, 2010.

24 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.