

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) A system of extended registration under this section must allow the owner of a commercial fleet to register:

1           (1) an entire commercial fleet in the county of the  
2 owner's residence or principal place of business; or

3           (2) the motor vehicles in a commercial fleet that are  
4 operated most regularly in the same county.

5           (c) In addition to the registration fees prescribed by  
6 Subchapter D, an owner registering a commercial fleet under this  
7 section shall pay:

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

10           (2) except as provided by Subsection (e), a one-time  
11 license plate manufacturing fee of \$1.50 for each fleet motor  
12 vehicle license plate.

13           (d) A license plate issued under this section:

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

16           (2) must include the expiration date of the  
17 registration period; and

18           (3) does not require an annual registration insignia  
19 to be valid.

20           (e) In addition to all other applicable registration fees,  
21 an owner registering a commercial fleet under this section shall  
22 pay a one-time license plate manufacturing fee of \$8 for each set of  
23 plates issued that includes on the legend the name or logo of the  
24 business entity that owns the vehicle instead of the fee imposed by  
25 Subsection (c)(2).

26           (f) If a motor vehicle registered under this section has a  
27 gross weight in excess of 10,000 pounds, the department shall also

1 issue a registration card for the vehicle that is valid for the  
2 selected registration period.

3 (g) The department shall adopt rules to implement this  
4 section, including rules on suspension from the commercial fleet  
5 program for failure to comply with this section or rules adopted  
6 under this section.

7 (h) The department and the counties in their budgeting  
8 processes shall consider any temporary increases and resulting  
9 decreases in revenue that will result from the use of the process  
10 provided under this section.

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

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

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

16 (2) for which the certificate of title has been  
17 surrendered in exchange for:

18 (A) a salvage vehicle title issued under this  
19 chapter;

20 (B) a nonrepairable vehicle title issued under  
21 this chapter;

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

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

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

1           (4) purchased by a commercial fleet buyer who is a  
2 full-service deputy under Section 502.114 and who utilizes the  
3 dealer title application process developed to provide a method to  
4 submit title transactions to the county in which the commercial  
5 fleet buyer is a full-service deputy.

6           SECTION 4. Section 386.252, Health and Safety Code, is  
7 amended by amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsection (d) to  
8 read as follows:

9           (a) Money in the fund may be used only to implement and  
10 administer programs established under the plan and shall be  
11 allocated as follows:

12           (1) for the diesel emissions reduction incentive  
13 program, 87.5 percent of the money in the fund, of which not more  
14 than four percent may be used for the clean school bus program, five  
15 percent shall be used for the clean fleet program, and not more than  
16 10 percent may be used for on-road diesel purchase or lease  
17 incentives;

18           (2) for the new technology research and development  
19 program, 9.5 percent of the money in the fund, of which up to  
20 \$250,000 is allocated for administration, up to \$200,000 is  
21 allocated for a health effects study, \$500,000 is to be deposited in  
22 the state treasury to the credit of the clean air account created  
23 under Section 382.0622 to supplement funding for air quality  
24 planning activities in affected counties, not less than 20 percent  
25 is to be allocated each year to support research related to air  
26 quality for the Houston-Galveston-Brazoria and Dallas-Fort Worth  
27 nonattainment areas by a nonprofit organization based in Houston of

1 which \$216,000 each year shall be contracted to the Energy Systems  
2 Laboratory at the Texas Engineering Experiment Station for the  
3 development and annual calculation of creditable statewide  
4 emissions reductions obtained through wind and other renewable  
5 energy resources for the State Implementation Plan, and the balance  
6 is to be allocated each year to a nonprofit organization or an  
7 institution of higher education based in Houston to be used to  
8 implement and administer the new technology research and  
9 development program under a contract with the commission for the  
10 purpose of identifying, testing, and evaluating new  
11 emissions-reducing technologies with potential for  
12 commercialization in this state and to facilitate their  
13 certification or verification; and

14 (3) for administrative costs incurred by the  
15 commission and the laboratory, three percent of the money in the  
16 fund.

17 (d) The commission may allocate unexpended money designated  
18 for the clean fleet program to other programs described under  
19 Subsection (a) after the commission allocates money to recipients  
20 under the clean fleet program.

21 SECTION 5. Subtitle C, Title 5, Health and Safety Code, is  
22 amended by adding Chapter 391 to read as follows:

23 CHAPTER 391. TEXAS CLEAN FLEET PROGRAM

24 Sec. 391.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

25 (1) "Alternative fuel" means a fuel other than  
26 gasoline or diesel fuel, including electricity, compressed natural  
27 gas, liquified natural gas, hydrogen, propane, or a mixture of

fuels containing at least 85 percent methanol by volume.

(2) "Commission" means the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

(3) "Golf cart" has the meaning assigned by Section 502.001, Transportation Code.

(4) "Hybrid vehicle" means a vehicle with at least two different energy converters and two different energy storage systems on board the vehicle for the purpose of propelling the vehicle.

(5) "Incremental cost" has the meaning assigned by Section 386.001.

(6) "Light-duty motor vehicle" has the meaning assigned by Section 386.151.

(7) "Motor vehicle" has the meaning assigned by Section 386.151.

(8) "Neighborhood electric vehicle" means a motor vehicle that:

(A) is originally manufactured to meet, and does meet, the equipment requirements and safety standards established for "low-speed vehicles" in Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 500 (49 C.F.R. Section 571.500);

(B) is a slow-moving vehicle, as defined by Section 547.001, Transportation Code, that is able to attain a speed of more than 20 miles per hour but not more than 25 miles per hour in one mile on a paved, level surface;

(C) is a four-wheeled motor vehicle;

(D) is powered by electricity or alternative

1 power sources;

2 (E) has a gross vehicle weight rating of less  
3 than 3,000 pounds; and

4 (F) is not a golf cart.

5 (9) "Program" means the Texas clean fleet program  
6 established under this chapter.

7 Sec. 391.002. PROGRAM. (a) The commission shall establish  
8 and administer the Texas clean fleet program to encourage a person  
9 that has a fleet of diesel-powered vehicles to replace them with  
10 alternative fuel or hybrid vehicles. Under the program, the  
11 commission shall provide grants for eligible projects to offset the  
12 incremental cost of projects for fleet owners.

13 (b) An entity that places 25 or more qualifying vehicles in  
14 service for use entirely in this state during a calendar year is  
15 eligible to participate in the program.

16 Sec. 391.003. QUALIFYING VEHICLES. (a) A vehicle is a  
17 qualifying vehicle that may be considered for a grant under the  
18 program if during the calendar year the entity purchases a new  
19 on-road vehicle that:

20 (1) is certified to current federal emissions  
21 standards;

22 (2) replaces a diesel-powered on-road vehicle of the  
23 same weight classification and use; and

24 (3) is a hybrid vehicle or fueled by an alternative  
25 fuel.

26 (b) A vehicle is not a qualifying vehicle if the vehicle:

27 (1) is a neighborhood electric vehicle;

1           (2) has been used as a qualifying vehicle to qualify  
2 for a grant under this chapter for a previous reporting period or by  
3 another entity; or

4           (3) has qualified for a similar grant or tax credit in  
5 another jurisdiction.

6           Sec. 391.004. APPLICATION FOR GRANT. (a) An entity  
7 operating in this state that operates a fleet of at least 100  
8 vehicles may apply for and receive a grant under the program.

9           (b) The commission may adopt guidelines to allow a regional  
10 planning commission, council of governments, or similar regional  
11 planning agency created under Chapter 391, Local Government Code,  
12 or a private nonprofit organization to apply for and receive a grant  
13 to improve the ability of the program to achieve its goals.

14           (c) An application for a grant under this chapter must be  
15 made on a form provided by the commission and must contain the  
16 information required by the commission.

17           Sec. 391.005. ELIGIBILITY OF PROJECTS FOR GRANTS. (a) The  
18 commission by rule shall establish criteria for prioritizing  
19 projects eligible to receive grants under this chapter. The  
20 commission shall review and revise the criteria as appropriate.

21           (b) To be eligible for a grant under the program, a project  
22 must:

23           (1) result in a reduction in emissions of nitrogen  
24 oxides or other pollutants, as established by the commission, of at  
25 least 25 percent, based on:

26           (A) the baseline emission level set by the  
27 commission under Subsection (g); and



1                   (B) the certified emission rate of the new  
2 vehicle; and

3                   (2) replace a vehicle that:

4                   (A) is an on-road vehicle that has been owned,  
5 registered, and operated by the applicant in Texas for at least the  
6 two years immediately preceding the submission of a grant  
7 application;

8                   (B) satisfies any minimum average annual mileage  
9 or fuel usage requirements established by the commission;

10                  (C) satisfies any minimum percentage of annual  
11 usage requirements established by the commission; and

12                  (D) is in operating condition and has at least  
13 two years of remaining useful life, as determined in accordance  
14 with criteria established by the commission.

15                  (c) As a condition of receiving a grant, the qualifying  
16 vehicle must be continuously owned, registered, and operated in the  
17 state by the grant recipient for at least five years from the date  
18 of reimbursement of the grant-funded expenses. Not less than 75  
19 percent of the annual use of the qualifying vehicle, either mileage  
20 or fuel use as determined by the commission, must occur in the  
21 state.

22                  (d) The commission shall include and enforce the usage  
23 provisions in the grant contracts. The commission shall monitor  
24 compliance with the ownership and usage requirements, including  
25 submission of reports on at least an annual basis, or more  
26 frequently as determined by the commission.

27                  (e) The commission by contract may require the return of all

1 or a portion of grant funds for a grant recipient's noncompliance  
2 with the usage and percentage of use requirements under this  
3 section.

4 (f) A vehicle or engine replaced under this program must be  
5 rendered permanently inoperable by crushing the vehicle or making a  
6 hole in the engine block and permanently destroying the frame of the  
7 vehicle. The commission shall establish criteria for ensuring the  
8 permanent destruction of the engine and vehicle. The commission  
9 shall monitor and enforce the destruction requirements.

10 (g) The commission shall establish baseline emission levels  
11 for emissions of nitrogen oxides for on-road vehicles being  
12 replaced. The commission may consider and establish baseline  
13 emission rates for additional pollutants of concern, as determined  
14 by the commission.

15 (h) Mileage requirements established by the commission  
16 under Subsection (b)(2)(B) may differ by vehicle weight categories  
17 and type of use.

18 Sec. 391.006. RESTRICTION ON USE OF GRANT. A recipient of a  
19 grant under this chapter shall use the grant to pay the incremental  
20 costs of the project for which the grant is made, which may include  
21 the initial cost of the alternative fuel vehicle and the reasonable  
22 and necessary expenses incurred for the labor needed to install  
23 emissions-reducing equipment. The recipient may not use the grant  
24 to pay the recipient's administrative expenses.

25 Sec. 391.007. AMOUNT OF GRANT. (a) The amount the  
26 commission shall award for each vehicle being replaced is:

27 (1) 80 percent of the incremental cost for replacement

1 of a heavy-duty diesel engine:

2 (A) manufactured prior to implementation of  
3 federal or California emission standards; and

4 (B) not certified to meet a specific emission  
5 level by either the United States Environmental Protection Agency  
6 or the California Air Resources Board;

7 (2) 70 percent of the incremental cost for replacement  
8 of a heavy-duty diesel engine certified to meet the federal  
9 emission standards applicable to engines manufactured in 1990  
10 through 1997;

11 (3) 60 percent of the incremental cost for replacement  
12 of a heavy-duty diesel engine certified to meet the federal  
13 emission standards applicable to engines manufactured in 1998  
14 through 2003;

15 (4) 50 percent of the incremental cost for replacement  
16 of a heavy-duty diesel engine certified to meet the federal  
17 emission standards applicable to engines manufactured in 2004 and  
18 later;

19 (5) 80 percent of the incremental cost for replacement  
20 of a light-duty diesel vehicle:

21 (A) manufactured prior to the implementation of  
22 certification requirements; and

23 (B) not certified to meet either mandatory or  
24 voluntary emission certification standards;

25 (6) 70 percent of the incremental cost for replacement  
26 of a light-duty diesel vehicle certified to meet federal Tier 1  
27 emission standards phased in between 1994 and 1997; and

1           (7) 60 percent of the incremental cost for replacement  
2 of a light-duty diesel vehicle certified to meet federal Tier 2  
3 emission standards phased in between 2004 and 2009.

4           (b) The commission may revise the standards for determining  
5 grant amounts, as needed to reflect changes to federal emission  
6 standards and decisions on pollutants of concern.

7           Sec. 391.008. EXPIRATION. This chapter expires August 31,  
8 2017.

9           SECTION 6. (a) In this section:

10           (1) "Alternative fuel" means a fuel other than  
11 gasoline or diesel fuel, including electricity, compressed natural  
12 gas, liquified natural gas, hydrogen, propane, methanol, or a  
13 mixture of fuels containing at least 85 percent methanol by volume.

14           (2) "Commission" means the Texas Commission on  
15 Environmental Quality.

16           (b) The commission shall conduct an alternative fueling  
17 facilities study to:

18           (1) assess the correlation between the installation of  
19 fueling facilities in nonattainment areas and the deployment of  
20 fleet vehicles that use alternative fuels; and

21           (2) determine the emissions reductions achieved from  
22 replacing a diesel-powered engine with an engine utilizing  
23 alternative fuels.

24           (c) From the emissions reductions determined under  
25 Subsection (b) of this section, the commission shall determine the  
26 amount of emissions reductions that are fairly attributable to the  
27 installation of an alternative fuel fueling facility and the

1 combustion of the alternative fuel in the vehicles fueled by the  
2 alternative fuel fueling facility.

3 (d) In connection with the study conducted under this  
4 section, the commission shall seek approval for credit in the state  
5 implementation plan from the United States Environmental  
6 Protection Agency for emissions reductions that can be:

7 (1) directly attributed to an alternative fuel fueling  
8 facility; and

9 (2) achieved as a consequence of an alternative fuel  
10 fueling facility encouraging the use of alternatively fueled  
11 vehicles.

12 (e) The commission shall include in the commission's  
13 biennial report to the legislature the findings of the study  
14 conducted under this section and the status of the discussions with  
15 the United States Environmental Protection Agency regarding credit  
16 for emissions reductions in the state implementation plan which can  
17 be achieved as a result of the installation of alternative fuel  
18 fueling facilities.

19 (f) This section expires August 31, 2011.

20 SECTION 7. Section 502.0022, Transportation Code, is  
21 repealed.

22 SECTION 8. (a) The Texas Department of Transportation  
23 shall adopt the rules and establish the system required under  
24 Section 502.0023, Transportation Code, as added by this Act, not  
25 later than January 1, 2010.

26 (b) The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality shall  
27 adopt rules under Section 391.005, Health and Safety Code, as added

S.B. No. 1759

1 by this Act, as soon as practicable after the effective date of this  
2 Act.

3 SECTION 9. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.

<hr style="border: none; border-top: 1px solid black; margin-bottom: 5px;"/> <div>President of the Senate</div>	<hr style="border: none; border-top: 1px solid black; margin-bottom: 5px;"/> <div>Speaker of the House</div>
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I hereby certify that S.B. No. 1759 passed the Senate on April 20, 2009, by the following vote: Yeas 30, Nays 0; May 29, 2009, Senate refused to concur in House amendments and requested appointment of Conference Committee; May 30, 2009, House granted request of the Senate; May 31, 2009, Senate adopted Conference Committee Report by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

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Secretary of the Senate

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 1759 passed the House, with amendments, on May 27, 2009, by the following vote: Yeas 146, Nays 2, one present not voting; May 30, 2009, House granted request of the Senate for appointment of Conference Committee; May 31, 2009, House adopted Conference Committee Report by the following vote: Yeas 135, Nays 9, one present not voting.

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Chief Clerk of the House

Approved:

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Date

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Governor