

By: Murphy

H.B. No. 561

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the operation of certain vehicles used for package delivery; authorizing a fee.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 551, Transportation Code, is amended by adding Subchapter G to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER G. PACKAGE DELIVERY VEHICLES

Sec. 551.451. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

(1) "All-terrain vehicle" has the meaning assigned by Section 502.001.

(2) "Golf cart" has the meaning assigned by Section 502.001.

(3) "Motor carrier" has the meaning assigned by Section 643.001.

(4) "Neighborhood electric vehicle" has the meaning assigned by Section 551.301.

(5) "Public highway" has the meaning assigned by Section 502.001.

(6) "Recreational off-highway vehicle" has the meaning assigned by Section 502.001.

(7) "Utility vehicle" has the meaning assigned by Section 551.401.

Sec. 551.452. LICENSE PLATES FOR PACKAGE DELIVERY VEHICLES.

(a) The Texas Department of Motor Vehicles may issue

1 distinguishing license plates for a vehicle operated by a motor  
2 carrier for the purpose of picking up and delivering mail, parcels,  
3 and packages if the vehicle:

4 (1) is:

5 (A) an all-terrain vehicle;

6 (B) a golf cart;

7 (C) a neighborhood electric vehicle;

8 (D) a recreational off-highway vehicle; or

9 (E) a utility vehicle; and

10 (2) is equipped with headlamps, taillamps,  
11 reflectors, a parking brake, and mirrors, in addition to any other  
12 equipment required by law.

13 (b) The Texas Department of Motor Vehicles by rule shall  
14 establish a procedure to issue the license plates to be used only  
15 for operation in accordance with this subchapter.

16 (c) The license plates must include the words "Package  
17 Delivery."

18 (d) The Texas Department of Motor Vehicles may charge a  
19 license plate fee not to exceed \$25 annually to be deposited to the  
20 credit of the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles fund.

21 Sec. 551.453. LIMITED OPERATION. (a) A motor carrier may  
22 operate, for the purpose of picking up or delivering mail, parcels,  
23 or packages, a vehicle bearing license plates issued under Section  
24 551.452 on a public highway that is not an interstate or a  
25 limited-access or controlled-access highway and that has a speed  
26 limit of not more than 35 miles per hour.

27 (b) The Department of Motor Vehicles may not require the

1 registration of a vehicle operated under Subsection (a) unless the  
2 registration is required by other law.

3 Sec. 551.454. OPERATION ON PROPERTY OF SUBDIVISION OR  
4 CONDOMINIUM. (a) In this section:

5 (1) "Condominium" has the meaning assigned by Section  
6 82.003, Property Code.

7 (2) "Declaration" has the meaning assigned by Section  
8 82.003, Property Code.

9 (3) "Property owners' association" has the meaning  
10 assigned by Section 202.001, Property Code.

11 (4) "Restrictions" has the meaning assigned by Section  
12 209.002, Property Code.

13 (5) "Subdivision" has the meaning assigned by Section  
14 209.002, Property Code.

15 (b) A property owners' association may adopt reasonable  
16 safety and use rules for the operation, for the purpose of picking  
17 up or delivering mail, parcels, or packages, of a vehicle bearing  
18 license plates issued under Section 551.452 on the property of a  
19 subdivision or condominium managed or regulated by the association.

20 (c) A motor carrier may operate, for the purpose of picking  
21 up or delivering mail, parcels, or packages, a vehicle bearing  
22 license plates issued under Section 551.452 on the property of a  
23 subdivision subject to restrictions or a condominium that has in  
24 place a declaration, in a manner that complies with any applicable  
25 rules adopted by a property owners' association that manages or  
26 regulates the subdivision or condominium.

27 Sec. 551.455. OPERATION IN MUNICIPALITIES AND COUNTIES.

1 (a) In addition to the operation authorized by Sections 551.453 and  
2 551.454, the governing body of a municipality may allow a motor  
3 carrier to operate, for the purpose of picking up or delivering  
4 mail, parcels, or packages, a vehicle bearing license plates issued  
5 under Section 551.452 on all or part of a public highway that:

6 (1) is in the corporate boundaries of the  
7 municipality; and

8 (2) has a speed limit of not more than 35 miles per  
9 hour.

10 (b) In addition to the operation authorized by Sections  
11 551.453 and 551.454, a county commissioners court may allow a motor  
12 carrier to operate, for the purpose of picking up or delivering  
13 mail, parcels, or packages, a vehicle bearing license plates issued  
14 under Section 551.452 on all or part of a public highway that:

15 (1) is located in the unincorporated area of the  
16 county; and

17 (2) has a speed limit of not more than 35 miles per  
18 hour.

19 Sec. 551.456. CROSSING CERTAIN ROADWAYS. A vehicle bearing  
20 license plates issued under Section 551.452 may cross  
21 intersections, including on or through a road or street that has a  
22 speed limit of more than 35 miles per hour.

23 Sec. 551.457. CONFLICTS. In the case of a conflict between  
24 this subchapter and other law, including Chapters 502 and 663, this  
25 subchapter controls.

26 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
27 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as

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1 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
2 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
3 Act takes effect September 1, 2017.