

By: Thompson of Harris, Morrison

H.B. No. 1959

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a study by the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles of alternative registration technologies for commercial motor vehicles.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 1003, Transportation Code, is amended by adding Section 1003.006 to read as follows:

Sec. 1003.006. STUDY ON REGISTRATION OF COMMERCIAL MOTOR VEHICLES. (a) The department shall:

(1) conduct a study that:

(A) identifies and assesses alternative technologies for registering commercial motor vehicles to replace license plates, permits, and other existing documentation and registration methods currently in use in this state; and

(B) evaluates the safety and suitability for use on roadways of the technologies identified under Paragraph (A); and

(2) submit a report on the results of the study to the governor, the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of representatives, and the chair of the standing committee of each house of the legislature with primary jurisdiction over transportation issues not later than December 21, 2018.

(b) The department may collaborate with another state agency or a research division of an institution of higher education in this state to conduct the study.

1 (c) This section expires January 1, 2019.

2 SECTION 2. (a) In this section, "department" means the
3 Texas Department of Motor Vehicles.

4 (b) The department, in consultation with a state agency or
5 research division of an institution of higher education in this
6 state, shall establish a pilot program at no cost to the state that
7 identifies, implements, and assesses alternative technologies to
8 replace license plates, permits, and other existing documentation
9 and registration methods currently in use for the registration of
10 commercial motor vehicles in this state.

11 (c) The pilot program must:

12 (1) evaluate the safety and suitability of the
13 alternative technologies identified under Subsection (b) of this
14 section for use on roadways; and

15 (2) be funded through contributions by participants
16 who voluntarily opt into the pilot program.

17 (d) Not later than December 21, 2018, the department shall
18 submit a report on the results of the pilot program to the governor,
19 lieutenant governor, speaker of the house of representatives, and
20 presiding officer of each legislative standing committee with
21 primary jurisdiction over transportation.

22 (e) This section expires January 1, 2019.

23 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
24 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
25 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
26 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
27 Act takes effect September 1, 2017.