

AN ACT

relating to 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 Sections 1003.006 and 1003.007 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, lieutenant governor, speaker of the house of representatives, and presiding officer of each legislative standing committee with primary jurisdiction over transportation issues not later than December 1, 2021.

(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.

(c) This section expires January 1, 2023.

1 Sec. 1003.007. PILOT PROGRAM FOR REGISTRATION OF COMMERCIAL
2 VEHICLES. (a) The department, in consultation with a state agency
3 or research division of an institution of higher education in this
4 state, may establish a limited pilot program that identifies,
5 implements, and assesses alternative technologies for registering
6 commercial motor vehicles to replace license plates, permits, and
7 other existing documentation and registration methods currently in
8 use in this state if the department determines that the program can
9 be implemented at no cost to the state and that the results of the
10 study conducted under Section 1003.006 indicate that the program is
11 feasible.

12 (b) The program must:

13 (1) evaluate the safety and suitability for use on
14 roadways of the alternative technologies identified under
15 Subsection (a); and

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

18 (c) Not later than December 1, 2022, the department shall
19 submit a report on the results of the program to the governor,
20 lieutenant governor, speaker of the house of representatives, and
21 presiding officer of each legislative standing committee with
22 primary jurisdiction over transportation issues.

23 (d) This section expires January 1, 2023.

24 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
25 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
26 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
27 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this

H.B. No. 1959

1 Act takes effect September 1, 2017.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 1959 was passed by the House on May 9, 2017, by the following vote: Yeas 143, Nays 2, 2 present, not voting; and that the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 1959 on May 26, 2017, by the following vote: Yeas 137, Nays 7, 2 present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 1959 was passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 24, 2017, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor