

By: Pickett

H.B. No. 2461

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to vehicle registration.

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

SECTION 1. Section 91.905, Natural Resources Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 91.905. APPLICATION OF OTHER LAW. Section 212.153(e), Local Government Code, and Sections 203.092 and ~~[7]~~ 224.008, ~~[and 502.1981(c)(4),]~~ Transportation Code, apply to saltwater pipeline operators and saltwater pipeline facilities in the same manner as they apply to utilities and utility facilities.

SECTION 2. Section 502.001(2), Transportation Code, is amended to read as follows:

(2) "Apportioned license plate" means a license plate issued in lieu of a truck, motor bus, ~~[license plate]~~ or combination license plate to a motor carrier in this state who proportionally registers a vehicle owned or leased by the carrier in one or more other states.

SECTION 3. Section 502.0023, Transportation Code, is amended by amending Subsections (c) and (e) and adding Subsection (c-1) to read as follows:

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

(1) a one-time ~~[an annual commercial fleet~~

1 ~~registration]~~ fee of \$10 per motor vehicle, semitrailer, or trailer  
2 in the fleet; and

3 (2) except as provided by Subsection (e), a one-time  
4 license plate manufacturing fee of \$1.50 for each fleet motor  
5 vehicle, semitrailer, or trailer license plate.

6 (c-1) A fee collected under Subsection (c) shall be  
7 deposited to the credit of the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles  
8 fund.

9 (e) In addition to all other applicable registration fees,  
10 an owner registering a commercial fleet under this section shall  
11 pay a one-time license plate manufacturing fee of \$8 for each set of  
12 plates issued that includes on the legend the name or logo of the  
13 business entity that owns the vehicle instead of the fee imposed by  
14 Subsection (c)(2). A license plate manufacturing fee collected  
15 under this section shall be deposited to the credit of the Texas  
16 Department of Motor Vehicles fund.

17 SECTION 4. Section 502.040(b), Transportation Code, is  
18 amended to read as follows:

19 (b) The application must be accompanied by personal  
20 identification as determined by department rule and made in a  
21 manner prescribed by the department:

22 (1) through the county assessor-collector of the  
23 county in which the owner resides; or

24 (2) if the office of that assessor-collector is  
25 closed, or may be closed for a protracted period of time, as defined  
26 by department rule, through a [if the county in which the owner  
27 resides has been declared by the governor as a disaster area,

1 ~~through the county assessor-collector of a county that is one of the~~  
2 ~~closest unaffected counties to a county that asks for assistance~~  
3 ~~and:~~

4 ~~[(A) continues to be declared by the governor as~~  
5 ~~a disaster area because the county has been rendered inoperable by~~  
6 ~~the disaster; and~~

7 ~~[(B) is inoperable for a protracted period of~~  
8 ~~time; or~~

9 ~~[(3) if the county assessor-collector's office in~~  
10 ~~which the owner resides is closed for a protracted period of time as~~  
11 ~~defined by the department, to the] county assessor-collector [~~of a~~~~  
12 ~~county that borders the county in which the owner resides] who is~~  
13 willing [~~agrees~~] to accept the application.

14 SECTION 5. Section 502.057, Transportation Code, is amended  
15 to read as follows:

16 Sec. 502.057. REGISTRATION RECEIPT. (a) The department  
17 shall issue or require to be issued to the owner of a vehicle  
18 registered under this chapter a registration receipt showing the  
19 information required by rule.

20 (b) A receipt for the renewed registration of a vehicle  
21 generated by an online registration system approved by the  
22 department is proof of the vehicle's registration until the 31st  
23 day after the date of renewal on the receipt.

24 SECTION 6. Section 502.060(b), Transportation Code, is  
25 amended to read as follows:

26 (b) No fee is required under this section if:

27 (1) the replacement fee for a license plate has been

1 paid under Section 504.007; or

2 (2) the county assessor-collector determines that the  
3 owner paid for a prior replacement registration insignia for the  
4 same registration period that was mailed to the owner but not  
5 received by the owner.

6 SECTION 7. Section 502.091(b), Transportation Code, is  
7 amended to read as follows:

8 (b) The department may adopt and enforce rules to carry out  
9 the International Registration Plan or other agreement under this  
10 section. The rules may require an applicant to register under the  
11 unified carrier registration system as defined by Section 643.001  
12 before the applicant applies for registration under the  
13 International Registration Plan.

14 SECTION 8. Sections 502.146(a) and (h), Transportation  
15 Code, are amended to read as follows:

16 (a) The department shall issue distinguishing [~~specialty~~]  
17 license plates to a vehicle described by Subsection (b) or (c). The  
18 fee for the license plates is \$5 and shall be deposited to the  
19 credit of the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles fund.

20 (h) A distinguishing [~~specialty~~] license plate may not be  
21 issued or renewed under Subsection (a) to an owner of a vehicle  
22 described by Subsection (b)(1) unless the vehicle's owner provides  
23 a registration number issued by the comptroller under Section  
24 151.1551, Tax Code, or the vehicle is owned by a farmers'  
25 cooperative society incorporated under Chapter 51, Agriculture  
26 Code, or a marketing association organized under Chapter 52,  
27 Agriculture Code. The comptroller shall allow access to the online

1 system established under Section 151.1551(1), Tax Code, to verify a  
2 registration number provided under this subsection.

3 SECTION 9. Section 502.198, Transportation Code, is amended  
4 to read as follows:

5 Sec. 502.198. DISPOSITION OF FEES GENERALLY. (a) Except  
6 as provided by Sections 502.058, 502.060, 502.1911, 502.192,  
7 502.356, and 502.357 and Subchapter H, this section applies to all  
8 fees collected by a county assessor-collector under this chapter.

9 (b) Each Tuesday [~~Monday~~], a county assessor-collector  
10 shall credit to the county road and bridge fund an amount equal to  
11 the net collections made during the preceding week until the amount  
12 so credited for the calendar year equals the total of:

13 (1) \$60,000; and

14 (2) \$350 for each mile of county road maintained by the  
15 county, according to the most recent information available from the  
16 department, not to exceed 500 miles[~~, and~~

17 [~~(3) an additional amount of fees equal to the amount~~  
18 ~~calculated under Section 502.1981].~~

19 (c) After the credits to the county road and bridge fund  
20 equal the total computed under Subsection (b), each Tuesday  
21 [~~Monday~~] the county assessor-collector shall:

22 (1) credit to the county road and bridge fund an amount  
23 equal to 50 percent of the net collections made during the preceding  
24 week, until the amount so credited for the calendar year equals  
25 \$125,000; and

26 (2) send to the department an amount equal to 50  
27 percent of those collections for deposit to the credit of the state

1 highway fund.

2 (d) After the credits to the county road and bridge fund  
3 equal the total amounts computed under Subsections (b) and (c)(1),  
4 each Tuesday [~~Monday~~] the county assessor-collector shall send to  
5 the department all collections made during the preceding week for  
6 deposit to the credit of the state highway fund.

7 SECTION 10. Section 502.1983(a), Transportation Code, is  
8 amended to read as follows:

9 (a) A [~~Except as provided by Section 502.357, a~~] county  
10 assessor-collector may:

11 (1) deposit the fees subject to Section 502.198 in an  
12 interest-bearing account or certificate in the county depository;  
13 and

14 (2) send the fees to the department not later than the  
15 34th day after the date the fees are due under Section 502.198  
16 [~~502.357~~].

17 SECTION 11. Section 502.433(a-1), Transportation Code, is  
18 amended to read as follows:

19 (a-1) A commercial motor vehicle registration may not be  
20 issued or renewed [~~registered~~] under this section unless the  
21 vehicle's owner provides a registration number issued by the  
22 comptroller under Section 151.1551, Tax Code. The comptroller  
23 shall allow access to the online system established under Section  
24 151.1551(1), Tax Code, to verify a registration number provided  
25 under this subsection.

26 SECTION 12. Section 504.007, Transportation Code, is  
27 amended by adding Subsection (g) to read as follows:

1        (g) No fee is required under this section if the county  
2 assessor-collector determines that the owner paid for prior  
3 replacement license plates for the same vehicle that were mailed to  
4 the owner but not received by the owner.

5        SECTION 13. Section 504.202(b), Transportation Code, is  
6 amended to read as follows:

7        (b) A veteran of the United States armed forces is entitled  
8 to register, for the person's own use, motor vehicles under this  
9 section if:

10        (1) the person has suffered, as a result of military  
11 service:

12                (A) at least a 50 percent service-connected  
13 disability; or

14                (B) a 40 percent service-connected disability  
15 because of the amputation of a lower extremity;

16        (2) the person receives compensation from the United  
17 States because of the disability; and

18        (3) the motor vehicle:

19                (A) is owned by the person; and

20                (B) has a gross vehicle weight of 18,000 pounds  
21 or less or is a motor home.

22        SECTION 14. Section 520.006(a-1), Transportation Code, is  
23 amended to read as follows:

24        (a-1) A county assessor-collector collecting fees on behalf  
25 of a county assessor-collector whose office [~~that has been declared~~  
26 ~~as a disaster area or that~~] is closed or may be closed for a  
27 protracted period of time as defined by the department for purposes

1 of Section 501.023 or 502.040 may retain the commission for fees  
2 collected, but shall allocate the fees to the county [~~declared as a~~  
3 ~~disaster area or~~] that is closed or may be closed for a protracted  
4 period of time.

5 SECTION 15. Section 623.144, Transportation Code, is  
6 amended to read as follows:

7 Sec. 623.144. REGISTRATION OF VEHICLE. (a) A person may  
8 not operate a vehicle permitted under this subchapter on a public  
9 highway unless the vehicle is registered under Chapter 502 for the  
10 maximum gross weight applicable to the vehicle under Section  
11 621.101 or has distinguishing [~~specialty~~] license plates as  
12 provided by Section 502.146 if applicable to the vehicle.

13 (b) The department may not issue distinguishing [~~specialty~~]  
14 license plates to a vehicle described by Section 502.146(b)(3)  
15 unless the applicant complies with the requirements of that  
16 subsection.

17 SECTION 16. Sections 502.1585 and 502.1981, Transportation  
18 Code, are repealed.

19 SECTION 17. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.