

AN ACT

relating to the titling of motor vehicles; creating a criminal offense and authorizing fees.

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

SECTION 1. Section 152.062, Tax Code, is amended by adding Subsection (d) to read as follows:

(d) A seller of a motor vehicle is not required to complete a joint statement described by this section if:

(1) the seller does not hold a general distinguishing number issued under Chapter 503, Transportation Code; and

(2) the seller has complied with Section 501.028 or 501.072, Transportation Code, as applicable.

SECTION 2. Section 501.002(30), Transportation Code, is amended to read as follows:

(30) "Travel trailer" means a house trailer-type vehicle or a camper trailer:

(A) that is a recreational vehicle defined under 24 C.F.R. Section 3282.8(g); or

(B) that:

(i) is less than eight feet six inches in width or 45 [~~40~~] feet in length, exclusive of any hitch installed on the vehicle;

(ii) is designed primarily for use as temporary living quarters in connection with recreational,

1 camping, travel, or seasonal use;

2 (iii) is not used as a permanent dwelling;

3 and

4 (iv) is not a utility trailer, enclosed  
5 trailer, or other trailer that does not have human habitation as its  
6 primary function.

7 SECTION 3. Section 501.004(b), Transportation Code, is  
8 amended to read as follows:

9 (b) This chapter does not apply to:

10 (1) a farm trailer or farm semitrailer with a gross  
11 vehicle weight of not more than 34,000 pounds used only for the  
12 transportation of farm products if the products are not transported  
13 for hire;

14 (2) the filing or recording of a lien that is created  
15 only on an automobile accessory, including a tire, radio, or  
16 heater;

17 (3) a motor vehicle while it is owned or operated by  
18 the United States; or

19 (4) a new motor vehicle on loan to a political  
20 subdivision of the state for use only in a driver education course  
21 conducted by an entity exempt from licensure under Section  
22 1001.002, Education Code.

23 SECTION 4. Section 501.021(a), Transportation Code, is  
24 amended to read as follows:

25 (a) A motor vehicle title issued by the department must  
26 include:

27 (1) the legal name and address of each purchaser [~~and~~

1 ~~seller at the first sale or a subsequent sale];~~

2 (2) the legal name of the seller and the municipality  
3 and state in which the seller is located or resides [~~make of the~~  
4 ~~motor vehicle~~];

5 (3) the year, make, and body style [~~type~~] of the  
6 vehicle;

7 (4) the [~~manufacturer's — permanent~~] vehicle  
8 identification number of the vehicle [~~or the vehicle's motor number~~  
9 ~~if the vehicle was manufactured before the date that stamping a~~  
10 ~~permanent identification number on a motor vehicle was universally~~  
11 ~~adopted~~];

12 (5) if the vehicle is subject to odometer disclosure  
13 under Section 501.072, the odometer reading and odometer brand as  
14 recorded on the last title assignment [~~serial number~~] for the  
15 vehicle;

16 (6) the name and address of each lienholder and the  
17 date of each lien on the vehicle, listed in the chronological order  
18 in which the lien was recorded;

19 (7) a statement indicating rights of survivorship  
20 under Section 501.031; and

21 (8) [~~if the vehicle has an odometer, the odometer~~  
22 ~~reading at the time of application for the title, and~~

23 [~~9~~] any other information required by the  
24 department.

25 SECTION 5. Section 501.023(a), Transportation Code, is  
26 amended to read as follows:

27 (a) The owner of a motor vehicle must present identification

1 and apply for a title as prescribed by the department, unless  
2 otherwise exempted by law. To obtain a title, the owner must apply:

3 (1) to the county assessor-collector in the county in  
4 which:

5 (A) the owner is domiciled; or

6 (B) the motor vehicle is purchased or encumbered;

7 or

8 ~~(2) [if the county in which the owner resides has been~~  
9 ~~declared by the governor as a disaster area, to the county~~  
10 ~~assessor-collector in one of the closest unaffected counties to a~~  
11 ~~county that asks for assistance and:~~

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

15 ~~[(B) is inoperable for a protracted period of~~  
16 ~~time; or~~

17 ~~[(3) if the county assessor-collector's office of the~~  
18 ~~county in which the owner resides is closed for a protracted period~~  
19 ~~of time as defined by the department,] to the county~~  
20 ~~assessor-collector of a county [that borders the county in which~~  
21 ~~the owner resides] who is willing [agrees] to accept the~~  
22 ~~application if the county assessor-collector's office of the county~~  
23 ~~in which the owner resides is closed or may be closed for a~~  
24 ~~protracted period of time as defined by the department.~~

25 SECTION 6. Section 501.028, Transportation Code, is amended  
26 to read as follows:

27 Sec. 501.028. SIGNATURES [OWNER'S SIGNATURE]. (a) On

1 receipt of a certificate of title, the owner of a motor vehicle  
2 shall write the owner's name in ink in the space provided on the  
3 certificate.

4 (b) Upon transfer of ownership, the seller shall complete  
5 assignment of title by signing and printing the seller's name,  
6 printing the date of transfer, and printing the purchaser's name  
7 and address on the title.

8 SECTION 7. Section 501.030(a), Transportation Code, is  
9 amended to read as follows:

10 (a) Before a motor vehicle that was last registered or  
11 titled in another state or country may be titled in this state, the  
12 county assessor-collector shall verify that the vehicle has passed  
13 the inspections required by Chapter 548, as indicated in the  
14 Department of Public Safety's inspection database under Section  
15 548.251, or that the owner has obtained an identification number  
16 inspection in accordance with department rule.

17 SECTION 8. The heading to Section 501.032, Transportation  
18 Code, is amended to read as follows:

19 Sec. 501.032. [~~ASSIGNMENT OF VEHICLE~~] IDENTIFICATION  
20 NUMBER INSPECTION REQUIRED [~~BY DEPARTMENT~~].

21 SECTION 9. Sections 501.032(a) and (b), Transportation  
22 Code, are amended to read as follows:

23 (a) In addition to any requirement established by  
24 department rule, a motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer must have  
25 an identification number inspection under Section 501.0321 if:

26 (1) the department does not have a motor vehicle  
27 record for the motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer in the

1 department's registration and title system, and the owner of the  
2 motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer is filing a bond with the  
3 department under Section 501.053;

4 (2) the motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer was  
5 last titled or registered outside of the United States and imported  
6 into the United States; or

7 (3) the owner or person claiming ownership requires an  
8 assigned or reassigned identification number under Section 501.033

9 ~~[On proper application, the department shall assign a vehicle~~  
10 ~~identification number to a travel trailer, a trailer or~~  
11 ~~semitrailer, a frame, or an item of equipment, including a tractor,~~  
12 ~~farm implement, unit of special mobile equipment, or unit of~~  
13 ~~off-road construction equipment.]~~

14 ~~[(1) on which a vehicle identification number was not~~  
15 ~~die-stamped by the manufacturer;~~

16 ~~[(2) on which a vehicle identification number~~  
17 ~~die-stamped by the manufacturer has been lost, removed, or~~  
18 ~~obliterated; or~~

19 ~~[(3) for which a vehicle identification number was~~  
20 ~~never assigned].~~

21 (b) An active duty member of a branch of the United States  
22 armed forces, or an immediate family member of such a member,  
23 returning to Texas with acceptable proof of the active duty status  
24 is exempt from an identification number inspection required under  
25 Subsection (a)(2) [The applicant shall die-stamp the assigned  
26 vehicle identification number at the place designated by the  
27 department on the travel trailer, trailer, semitrailer, frame, or

1 ~~equipment]~~.

2 SECTION 10. Subchapter B, Chapter 501, Transportation Code,  
3 is amended by adding Sections 501.0321 and 501.0322 to read as  
4 follows:

5 Sec. 501.0321. IDENTIFICATION NUMBER INSPECTION. (a) An  
6 inspection required under Section 501.032 must verify, as  
7 applicable, the identity of:

8 (1) a motor vehicle;

9 (2) a trailer or semitrailer;

10 (3) a frame, body, or motor of a motor vehicle; or

11 (4) an item of equipment not required to be titled but  
12 that may be registered under Chapter 502 or issued licensed plates  
13 under Chapter 504.

14 (b) An inspection under this section may not rely solely on  
15 the public identification number to verify the identity.

16 (c) An inspection under this section may be performed only  
17 by a person who has successfully completed an appropriate training  
18 program as determined by department rule and is:

19 (1) an auto theft investigator who is a law  
20 enforcement officer of this state or a political subdivision of  
21 this state;

22 (2) a person working under the direct supervision of a  
23 person described by Subdivision (1);

24 (3) an employee of the department authorized by the  
25 department to perform an inspection under this section; or

26 (4) an employee of the National Insurance Crime Bureau  
27 authorized by the department to perform an inspection under this

1 section.

2 (d) The department shall prescribe a form on which the  
3 identification number inspection is to be recorded. The department  
4 may provide the form only to a person described by Subsection (c).

5 (e) The department or another entity that provides an  
6 inspection under this section may impose a fee of not more than \$40  
7 for the inspection. The county or municipal treasurer of a county  
8 or municipal entity that provides an inspection under this section  
9 shall credit the fee to the general fund of the county or  
10 municipality, as applicable, to defray the entity's cost associated  
11 with the inspection. If the department provides an inspection  
12 under this section, the fee shall be deposited to the credit of the  
13 Texas Department of Motor Vehicles fund.

14 (f) The department may not impose a fee for an inspection  
15 requested by the department. The department shall include a  
16 notification of the waiver to the owner at the time the department  
17 requests the identification number inspection.

18 Sec. 501.0322. ALTERNATIVE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER  
19 INSPECTION. The department by rule may establish a process for  
20 verifying the identity of an item listed in Section 501.0321(a) as  
21 an alternative to an identification number inspection under Section  
22 501.0321. The rules may include the persons authorized to perform  
23 the inspection, when an alternative inspection under this section  
24 is required, and any fees that may be assessed. Any fee authorized  
25 must comply with Sections 501.0321(e) and (f).

26 SECTION 11. Section **501.033**, Transportation Code, is  
27 amended to read as follows:



1           Sec. 501.033. ASSIGNMENT           AND REASSIGNMENT           OF  
2 IDENTIFICATION NUMBER BY DEPARTMENT.   (a) If the permanent  
3 identification number affixed by the manufacturer has been removed,  
4 altered, or obliterated, or a permanent identification number was  
5 never assigned, the department shall assign an identification  
6 number to [~~A person determined by law enforcement or a court to be~~  
7 ~~the owner of~~] a motor vehicle, [~~travel trailer,~~] semitrailer, [~~or~~]  
8 trailer, motor [~~a part of a motor vehicle,~~] [~~travel trailer,~~  
9 ~~semitrailer, or trailer, a~~] frame, or body of a motor vehicle, or an  
10 item of equipment not required to be titled but that may be  
11 registered under Chapter 502 or issued license plates under Chapter  
12 504 on inspection under Section 501.0321 and application to the  
13 department [~~including a tractor, farm implement, unit of special~~  
14 ~~mobile equipment, or unit of off-road construction equipment may~~  
15 ~~apply to the department for an assigned vehicle identification~~  
16 ~~number that has been removed, altered, obliterated, or has never~~  
17 ~~been assigned)].~~

18           (b) An application under this section must be in a manner  
19 prescribed by the department and accompanied by valid evidence of  
20 ownership in the name of, or properly assigned to, the applicant as  
21 required by the department.

22           (c) A fee of \$2 must accompany each application under this  
23 section to be deposited in the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles  
24 fund.

25           (d) The assigned [~~vehicle~~] identification number shall be  
26 die-stamped or otherwise affixed in the manner and location  
27 designated by the department.

1           (e) The department shall reassign an original  
2 manufacturer's identification number only if the person who  
3 conducts the inspection under Section 501.0321 determines that the  
4 permanent identification number affixed by the manufacturer has  
5 been removed, altered, or obliterated [~~If the auto theft unit of a~~  
6 ~~county or municipal law enforcement agency conducts an inspection~~  
7 ~~required by the department under this section, the agency may~~  
8 ~~impose a fee of \$40. The county or municipal treasurer shall credit~~  
9 ~~the fee to the general fund of the county or municipality, as~~  
10 ~~applicable, to defray the agency's cost associated with the~~  
11 ~~inspection. The fee shall be waived by the department or agency~~  
12 ~~imposing the fee if the person applying under this section is the~~  
13 ~~current registered owner].~~

14           (f) If the department reassigns a manufacturer's  
15 identification number, a representative of the department shall  
16 affix the number in a manner and location designated by the  
17 department.

18           (g) On affixing an assigned identification number or  
19 witnessing the affixing of a reassigned identification number, the  
20 owner or the owner's representative shall certify on a form  
21 prescribed by the department that the identification number has  
22 been affixed in the manner and location designated by the  
23 department and shall submit the form in a manner prescribed by the  
24 department.

25           (h) Only the department may issue an identification number  
26 to a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, motor, frame, or body of a  
27 motor vehicle, or an item of equipment not required to be titled but

1 that may be registered under Chapter 502 or issued license plates  
2 under Chapter 504. The department may not recognize an  
3 identification number assigned by any other agency or political  
4 subdivision of this state.

5 SECTION 12. Section 501.036, Transportation Code, is  
6 amended to read as follows:

7 Sec. 501.036. TITLE FOR FARM TRAILER OR FARM SEMITRAILER.

8 (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, the  
9 department may issue a title for a farm trailer or farm semitrailer  
10 with a gross vehicle weight of not more than 34,000 [~~4,000~~] pounds  
11 if[+]

12 [~~(1) the farm semitrailer is eligible for registration~~  
13 ~~under Section 502.146, and~~

14 [~~(2)~~] all [~~other~~] requirements for issuance of a title  
15 are met.

16 (b) To obtain a title under this section, the owner [~~of the~~  
17 ~~farm semitrailer~~] must:

18 (1) apply for the title in the manner required by  
19 Section 501.023; and

20 (2) pay the fee required by Section 501.138.

21 (c) A subsequent purchaser of a farm trailer or farm  
22 semitrailer titled previously under this section or in another  
23 jurisdiction must obtain a title under [~~The department shall adopt~~  
24 ~~rules to implement and administer~~] this section.

25 SECTION 13. Section 501.037, Transportation Code, is  
26 amended to read as follows:

27 Sec. 501.037. TITLE FOR TRAILERS OR SEMITRAILERS.

1 (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, the  
2 department may issue a title for a trailer or semitrailer that has a  
3 gross vehicle weight of 4,000 pounds or less if all other  
4 requirements for issuance of a title are met.

5 (b) To obtain a title under this section, the owner of the  
6 trailer or semitrailer must:

7 (1) apply for the title in the manner required by  
8 Section 501.023; and

9 (2) pay the fee required by Section 501.138.

10 (c) A subsequent purchaser of a trailer or semitrailer  
11 titled previously under this section or in another jurisdiction  
12 must obtain a title under this section.

13 SECTION 14. Section 501.071(a), Transportation Code, is  
14 amended to read as follows:

15 (a) Except as provided by Sections 503.036 and [~~in Section~~  
16 503.039], a motor vehicle may not be the subject of a subsequent sale  
17 unless the owner designated on the title submits a transfer of  
18 ownership of the title.

19 SECTION 15. Section 501.072, Transportation Code, is  
20 amended to read as follows:

21 Sec. 501.072. ODOMETER DISCLOSURE STATEMENT. (a) Except  
22 as provided by Subsection (c), the transferor [~~seller~~] of a motor  
23 vehicle transferred [~~sold~~] in this state shall provide to the  
24 transferee [~~buyer, on a form prescribed by the department,~~] a  
25 [~~written~~] disclosure of the vehicle's odometer reading at the time  
26 of the transfer in compliance with 49 U.S.C. Section 32705 [~~sale.~~  
27 ~~The form must include space for the signature and printed name of~~

1 ~~both the seller and buyer~~].

2 (b) When application for a [~~certificate of~~] title is made,  
3 the transferee [~~owner~~] shall record the [~~current~~] odometer reading  
4 on the application. The [~~written~~] disclosure required by  
5 Subsection (a) must accompany the application.

6 (c) An odometer disclosure statement is not required for the  
7 transfer [~~sale~~] of a motor vehicle that is exempt from odometer  
8 disclosure requirements under 49 C.F.R. Part 580[~~+~~

9 [~~(1) has a manufacturer's rated carrying capacity of~~  
10 ~~more than two tons,~~

11 [~~(2) is not self-propelled,~~

12 [~~(3) is 10 or more years old,~~

13 [~~(4) is sold directly by the manufacturer to an agency~~  
14 ~~of the United States government in conformity with contractual~~  
15 ~~specifications, or~~

16 [~~(5) is a new motor vehicle~~].

17 (d) The department shall provide for use consistent with 49  
18 C.F.R. Part 580:

19 (1) a secure power of attorney form; and

20 (2) a secure reassignment form for licensed motor  
21 vehicle dealers.

22 (e) In this section, "transferee" and "transferor" have the  
23 meanings assigned by 49 C.F.R. Part 580.

24 SECTION 16. Section 501.091(9), Transportation Code, is  
25 amended to read as follows:

26 (9) "Nonrepairable motor vehicle" means a motor  
27 vehicle [~~that~~]:

1 (A) that is damaged, wrecked, or burned to the  
2 extent that the only residual value of the vehicle is as a source of  
3 parts or scrap metal; ~~[or]~~

4 (B) that comes into this state under a comparable  
5 ownership document that indicates that the vehicle is  
6 nonrepairable;

7 (C) that a salvage vehicle dealer has reported to  
8 the department under Section 501.1003;

9 (D) for which an owner has surrendered evidence  
10 of ownership for the purpose of dismantling, scrapping, or  
11 destroying the motor vehicle; or

12 (E) that is sold for export only under Section  
13 501.099.

14 SECTION 17. Section 501.09113(a), Transportation Code, is  
15 amended to read as follows:

16 (a) On receipt of a proper application from the owner of a  
17 motor vehicle, the department shall issue the applicant the  
18 appropriate title with any notations determined by the department  
19 as necessary to describe or disclose the motor vehicle's current or  
20 former condition if the ~~[This section applies only to a]~~ motor  
21 vehicle was brought into this state from another state or  
22 jurisdiction and ~~[that]~~ has on any title or comparable out-of-state  
23 ownership document issued by the other state or jurisdiction or  
24 record in the National Motor Vehicle Title Information System  
25 reported by another state or jurisdiction:

26 (1) a "rebuilt," "repaired," "reconstructed," "flood  
27 damage," "fire damage," "owner retained," "salvage," or similar

1 notation; or

2 (2) a "nonrepairable," "dismantle only," "parts  
3 only," "junked," "scrapped," "crushed," or similar notation.

4 SECTION 18. Section 501.097(a), Transportation Code, as  
5 amended by Chapters 1136 (H.B. 1422) and 1296 (H.B. 2357), Acts of  
6 the 82nd Legislature, Regular Session, 2011, is reenacted to read  
7 as follows:

8 (a) An application for a nonrepairable vehicle title,  
9 nonrepairable record of title, salvage vehicle title, or salvage  
10 record of title must:

11 (1) be made in a manner prescribed by the department  
12 and accompanied by a \$8 application fee;

13 (2) include, in addition to any other information  
14 required by the department:

15 (A) the name and current address of the owner;  
16 and

17 (B) a description of the motor vehicle, including  
18 the make, style of body, model year, and vehicle identification  
19 number; and

20 (3) include the name and address of:

21 (A) any currently recorded lienholder, if the  
22 motor vehicle is a nonrepairable motor vehicle; or

23 (B) any currently recorded lienholder or a new  
24 lienholder, if the motor vehicle is a salvage motor vehicle.

25 SECTION 19. Section 501.1001(a), Transportation Code, as  
26 amended by Chapters 1136 (H.B. 1422) and 1296 (H.B. 2357), Acts of  
27 the 82nd Legislature, Regular Session, 2011, is reenacted and

1 amended to read as follows:

2 (a) Except as provided by Section 501.0925, an insurance  
3 company that is licensed to conduct business in this state and that  
4 acquires, through payment of a claim, ownership or possession of a  
5 salvage motor vehicle or nonrepairable motor vehicle [~~covered by a~~  
6 ~~certificate of title issued by this state or a manufacturer's~~  
7 ~~certificate of origin~~] shall surrender the [a] properly assigned  
8 evidence of ownership and apply for the appropriate title under  
9 Section 501.097 [~~title or manufacturer's certificate of origin to~~  
10 ~~the department, on a form prescribed by the department~~].

11 SECTION 20. Section 501.1002(a), Transportation Code, as  
12 amended by Chapters 1136 (H.B. 1422) and 1296 (H.B. 2357), Acts of  
13 the 82nd Legislature, Regular Session, 2011, is reenacted to read  
14 as follows:

15 (a) If an insurance company pays a claim on a nonrepairable  
16 motor vehicle or salvage motor vehicle and the insurance company  
17 does not acquire ownership of the motor vehicle, the insurance  
18 company shall:

19 (1) submit to the department, before the 31st day  
20 after the date of the payment of the claim, on the form prescribed  
21 by the department, a report stating that the insurance company:

22 (A) has paid a claim on the motor vehicle; and

23 (B) has not acquired ownership of the motor  
24 vehicle; and

25 (2) provide notice to the owner of the motor vehicle  
26 of:

27 (A) the report required under Subdivision (1);



1 and

2 (B) the requirements for operation or transfer of  
3 ownership of the motor vehicle under Subsection (b).

4 SECTION 21. Section 501.1002(b), Transportation Code, is  
5 amended to read as follows:

6 (b) The owner of a salvage or nonrepairable motor vehicle  
7 ~~[to which this section applies]~~ may not ~~[operate or permit~~  
8 ~~operation of the motor vehicle on a public highway or]~~ transfer  
9 ownership of the motor vehicle by sale or otherwise unless the  
10 department has issued a salvage vehicle title, salvage record of  
11 title, nonrepairable vehicle title, or nonrepairable record of  
12 title for the motor vehicle or a comparable ownership document has  
13 been issued by another state or jurisdiction for the motor vehicle  
14 in the name of the owner.

15 SECTION 22. Section 501.109, Transportation Code, is  
16 amended by amending Subsections (d) and (e) and adding Subsections  
17 (g) and (h) to read as follows:

18 (d) Except as provided by Subsection (e), an offense under  
19 Subsection (a), (b), or (c) ~~[this section]~~ is a Class C misdemeanor.

20 (e) If it is shown on the trial of an offense under  
21 Subsection (a), (b), or (c) ~~[this section]~~ that the defendant has  
22 been previously convicted of:

23 (1) one offense under Subsection (a), (b), or (c)  
24 ~~[this section]~~, the offense is a Class B misdemeanor; or

25 (2) two or more offenses under Subsection (a), (b), or  
26 (c) ~~[this section]~~, the offense is a state jail felony.

27 (g) A person commits an offense if the person knowingly

1 provides false or incorrect information or without legal authority  
2 signs the name of another person on:

3 (1) an application for a title to a nonrepairable  
4 motor vehicle or salvage motor vehicle;

5 (2) an application for a certified copy of an original  
6 title to a nonrepairable motor vehicle or salvage motor vehicle;

7 (3) an assignment of title for a nonrepairable motor  
8 vehicle or salvage motor vehicle;

9 (4) a discharge of a lien on a title for a  
10 nonrepairable motor vehicle or salvage motor vehicle; or

11 (5) any other document required by the department or  
12 necessary for the transfer of ownership of a nonrepairable motor  
13 vehicle or salvage motor vehicle.

14 (h) An offense under Subsection (g) is a felony of the third  
15 degree.

16 SECTION 23. Effective January 1, 2019, the heading to  
17 Section 501.134, Transportation Code, is amended to read as  
18 follows:

19 Sec. 501.134. CERTIFIED COPY OF LOST OR DESTROYED  
20 CERTIFICATE OF TITLE.

21 SECTION 24. Effective January 1, 2019, Sections 501.134(a),  
22 (b), (c), and (d), Transportation Code, are amended to read as  
23 follows:

24 (a) If a printed title is lost or destroyed, the owner or  
25 lienholder disclosed on the title may obtain, in the manner  
26 provided by this section and department rule, a certified copy of  
27 the lost or destroyed title directly from the department by

1 applying in a manner prescribed by the department and paying a fee  
2 of \$2. A fee collected under this subsection shall be deposited to  
3 the credit of the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles fund [~~and may~~  
4 ~~be spent only as provided by Section 501.138~~].

5 (b) If a lien is disclosed on a title, the department may  
6 issue a certified copy of the [~~original~~] title only to the first  
7 lienholder or the lienholder's verified agent unless the owner has  
8 original proof from the lienholder of lien satisfaction.

9 (c) The department must plainly mark "certified copy" on the  
10 face of a certified copy issued under this section. [~~A subsequent~~  
11 ~~purchaser or lienholder of the vehicle only acquires the rights,~~  
12 ~~title, or interest in the vehicle held by the holder of the~~  
13 ~~certified copy.~~]

14 (d) A certified copy of the title that is lawfully obtained  
15 under this section supersedes and invalidates any previously issued  
16 title or certified copy. If the certified copy of the title is  
17 later rescinded, canceled, or revoked under Section 501.051, the  
18 department may revalidate a previously superseded or invalidated  
19 title or certified copy of title [~~A purchaser or lienholder of a~~  
20 ~~motor vehicle having a certified copy issued under this section may~~  
21 ~~at the time of the purchase or establishment of the lien require~~  
22 ~~that the seller or owner indemnify the purchaser or lienholder and~~  
23 ~~all subsequent purchasers of the vehicle against any loss the~~  
24 ~~person may suffer because of a claim presented on the original~~  
25 ~~title~~].

26 SECTION 25. Section 541.201(5), Transportation Code, is  
27 amended to read as follows:

1           (5) "House trailer" means a trailer or semitrailer,  
2 other than a towable recreational vehicle, that:

3           (A) is transportable on a highway in one or more  
4 sections;

5           (B) is less than 45 [~~40~~] feet in length,  
6 excluding tow bar, while in the traveling mode;

7           (C) is built on a permanent chassis;

8           (D) is designed to be used as a dwelling or for  
9 commercial purposes if connected to required utilities; and

10           (E) includes plumbing, heating,  
11 air-conditioning, and electrical systems.

12           SECTION 26. The following provisions of the Transportation  
13 Code are repealed:

14           (1) Sections [501.032](#)(c) and (d); and

15           (2) Section [501.09113](#)(b).

16           SECTION 27. Not later than December 31, 2018, the  
17 Department of Public Safety and the Texas Department of Motor  
18 Vehicles shall:

19           (1) conduct a study on the efficiency and necessity of  
20 the titling, including actions related to titling such as  
21 registration, and inspection of vehicles in this state; and

22           (2) submit to the legislature a report on the results  
23 of the study that includes:

24           (A) identification of any elements of the vehicle  
25 titling, including actions related to titling such as registration,  
26 and inspection programs that can be eliminated; and

27           (B) recommendations for legislation to eliminate

1 those elements.

2 SECTION 28. Except as otherwise provided by this Act, this  
3 Act takes effect September 1, 2017.

\_\_\_\_\_  
President of the Senate

\_\_\_\_\_  
Speaker of the House

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 2076 passed the Senate on April 27, 2017, by the following vote: Yeas 27, Nays 4; and that the Senate concurred in House amendments on May 26, 2017, by the following vote: Yeas 27, Nays 4.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of the Senate

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 2076 passed the House, with amendments, on May 21, 2017, by the following vote: Yeas 130, Nays 12, one present not voting.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Clerk of the House

Approved:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Governor