

**House Bill 1959**  
Senate Amendments  
Section-by-Section Analysis

HOUSE VERSION

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.

(c) This section expires January 1, 2019.

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

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

SENATE VERSION (CS)

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.

Sec. 1003.007. PILOT PROGRAM FOR REGISTRATION OF COMMERCIAL VEHICLES.

(a) The department, in consultation with a state agency or research division of an institution of higher education in this state, may establish a limited pilot program that identifies, implements, 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 if the

CONFERENCE

**House Bill 1959**  
Senate Amendments  
Section-by-Section Analysis

HOUSE VERSION

(c) The pilot program must:

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

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

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

(e) This section expires January 1, 2019.

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

SENATE VERSION (CS)

department determines that the program can be implemented at no cost to the state and that the results of the study conducted under Section 1003.006 indicate that the program is feasible.

(b) The program must:

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

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

(c) Not later than December 1, 2022, the department shall submit a report on the results of the program 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.

(d) This section expires January 1, 2023.

SECTION 2. Same as House version.

CONFERENCE