

By: Bailes

H.B. No. 3078

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the registration of certain motor vehicles as farm or ranch vehicles.

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

SECTION 1. The heading to Section 502.433, Transportation Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 502.433. FEE: COMMERCIAL FARM OR RANCH MOTOR VEHICLE.

SECTION 2. Sections 502.433(a) and (d), Transportation Code, are amended to read as follows:

(a) The registration fee for a commercial motor vehicle as a farm vehicle or ranch vehicle is 50 percent of the applicable fee under Section 502.252 or 502.253, as applicable, if the vehicle's owner will use the vehicle for commercial purposes only to transport:

(1) the person's own poultry, dairy, livestock, livestock products, timber in its natural state, or farm products to market or another place for sale or processing;

(2) laborers from their place of residence to the owner's farm or ranch; or

(3) without charge, materials, tools, equipment, or supplies from the place of purchase or storage to the owner's farm or ranch exclusively for the owner's use or for use on the farm or ranch.

(d) The department shall provide separate distinguishing

1 license plates for farm and ranch vehicles [~~a vehicle~~] registered
2 under this section. The department shall provide a person who
3 registers a vehicle under this section the option of designating
4 the vehicle as a farm vehicle or a ranch vehicle.

5 SECTION 3. Section 545.413(e), Transportation Code, is
6 amended to read as follows:

7 (e) It is a defense to prosecution under this section that:

8 (1) the person possesses a written statement from a
9 licensed physician stating that for a medical reason the person
10 should not wear a safety belt;

11 (2) the person presents to the court, not later than
12 the 10th day after the date of the offense, a statement from a
13 licensed physician stating that for a medical reason the person
14 should not wear a safety belt;

15 (3) the person is employed by the United States Postal
16 Service and performing a duty for that agency that requires the
17 operator to service postal boxes from a vehicle or that requires
18 frequent entry into and exit from a vehicle;

19 (4) the person is engaged in the actual delivery of
20 newspapers from a vehicle or is performing newspaper delivery
21 duties that require frequent entry into and exit from a vehicle;

22 (5) the person is employed by a public or private
23 utility company and is engaged in the reading of meters or
24 performing a similar duty for that company requiring the operator
25 to frequently enter into and exit from a vehicle;

26 (6) the person is operating a commercial vehicle
27 registered as a farm or ranch vehicle under the provisions of

1 Section 502.433 that does not have a gross weight, registered
2 weight, or gross weight rating of 48,000 pounds or more; or

3 (7) the person is the operator of or a passenger in a
4 vehicle used exclusively to transport solid waste and performing
5 duties that require frequent entry into and exit from the vehicle.

6 SECTION 4. Section 622.074, Transportation Code, is amended
7 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 622.074. NONAPPLICABILITY OF SUBCHAPTER. This
9 subchapter does not apply to:

10 (1) farm equipment used for a purpose other than
11 construction;

12 (2) special mobile equipment owned by a dealer or
13 distributor;

14 (3) a vehicle used to propel special mobile equipment
15 that is registered as a farm or ranch vehicle under Section 502.433;
16 or

17 (4) equipment while being used by a commercial hauler
18 to transport special mobile equipment under hire of a person who
19 derives \$500 in gross receipts annually from a farming or ranching
20 enterprise.

21 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.