

By: Hancock

S.B. No. 1816

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the titling, registration, and operation of a miniature vehicle.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 501, Transportation Code, is amended by adding Section 501.039 to read as follows:

Sec. 501.039. TITLE FOR MINIATURE VEHICLE. (a) In this section, "miniature vehicle" has the meaning assigned by Section 502.001.

(b) For the purposes of issuing a title under this chapter, a miniature vehicle is considered to be a motor vehicle.

(c) This section applies only to a miniature vehicle that:

(1) was 25 years of age or older at the time of import into the United States; or

(2) at the time of the issuance of the title, is 25 years of age or older and has previously been issued a valid title in the United States.

SECTION 2. Section 502.001, Transportation Code, is amended by adding Subdivision (21-a) to read as follows:

(21-a) "Miniature vehicle" means a miniature car, truck, van, or bus manufactured in Japan that:

(A) is powered by an internal combustion engine with a displacement of 1,200 cubic centimeters or less;

(B) has a width of 60 inches or less;

1 (C) has a length of 140 inches or less;

2 (D) has a height of 80 inches or less;

3 (E) has a top speed of at least 50 miles per hour;

4 (F) is designed to propel itself with four or  
5 more tires in contact with the ground;

6 (G) is equipped with:

7 (i) a speedometer; and

8 (ii) all equipment required for miniature  
9 vehicles under Section 547.106 or rules adopted by the Department  
10 of Public Safety under Section 547.106; and

11 (H) has a manufacturer's permanent vehicle  
12 identification number, as defined by Section 501.002.

13 SECTION 3. Subchapter A, Chapter 502, Transportation Code,  
14 is amended by adding Section 502.006 to read as follows:

15 Sec. 502.006. REGISTRATION OF MINIATURE VEHICLE. (a) For  
16 purposes of registering a vehicle under this chapter, a miniature  
17 vehicle is considered to be a motor vehicle.

18 (b) This section applies only to a miniature vehicle that:

19 (1) was 25 years of age or older at the time of import  
20 into the United States; or

21 (2) at the time of registration is 25 years of age or  
22 older and has previously been issued a valid title in the United  
23 States.

24 SECTION 4. Subchapter I, Chapter 545, Transportation Code,  
25 is amended by adding Section 545.429 to read as follows:

26 Sec. 545.429. OPERATION OF MINIATURE VEHICLE. (a) In this  
27 section, "miniature vehicle" has the meaning assigned by Section

1 502.001.

2 (b) A person may operate a miniature vehicle on a public  
3 highway only if:

4 (1) the vehicle has been registered and titled in  
5 accordance with the laws of this state; and

6 (2) the vehicle is capable of operating in compliance  
7 with applicable traffic laws in this title.

8 SECTION 5. Subchapter B, Chapter 547, Transportation Code,  
9 is amended by adding Section 547.106 to read as follows:

10 Sec. 547.106. MINIATURE VEHICLE EQUIPMENT STANDARDS. (a)  
11 In this section, "miniature vehicle" has the meaning assigned by  
12 Section 502.001.

13 (b) A miniature vehicle must be equipped with the following  
14 items in compliance with this chapter:

15 (1) headlamps;

16 (2) stoplamps;

17 (3) turn signal lamps;

18 (4) tail lamps;

19 (5) parking brake;

20 (6) rearview mirror; and

21 (7) windshield wipers.

22 (c) A provision of this chapter that requires equipment not  
23 listed in Subsection (b) does not apply to a miniature vehicle  
24 unless the department by rule specifically applies the provision to  
25 miniature vehicles.

26 SECTION 6. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.