Chapter 968

S.B. No. 2075

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 502.1901(e)(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]
registration fee of $10 per motor vehicle, semitrailer, or trailer in the fleet; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

(2) if the office of that assessor-collector is closed, or may be closed for a protracted period of time, as defined by department rule, through a [if the county in which the owner resides has been declared by the governor as a disaster area,
through the county assessor-collector of a county that is one of the
closest unaffected counties to a county that asks for assistance
and,

[(A)] continues to be declared by the governor as
a disaster area because the county has been rendered inoperable by
the disaster, and

[(B)] is inoperable for a protracted period of
time, or

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

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

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

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

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

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

(1) the replacement fee for a license plate has been
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paid under Section 504.007, or

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1. $60,000; and
2. $350 for each mile of county road maintained by the county, according to the most recent information available from the department, not to exceed 500 miles; and
3. an additional amount of fees equal to the amount calculated under Section 502.1981.

(c) After the credits to the county road and bridge fund equal the total computed under Subsection (b), each Tuesday the county assessor-collector shall:

1. credit to the county road and bridge fund an amount equal to 50 percent of the net collections made during the preceding week, until the amount so credited for the calendar year equals $125,000; and
2. send to the department an amount equal to 50 percent of those collections for deposit to the credit of the state highway fund.
(d) After the credits to the county road and bridge fund equal the total amounts computed under Subsections (b) and (c)(1), each Tuesday the county assessor-collector shall send to the department all collections made during the preceding week for deposit to the credit of the state highway fund.

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

(a) A county assessor-collector may:

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

(2) send the fees to the department not later than the 34th day after the date the fees are due under Section 502.198.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(3) the motor vehicle:

(A) is owned by the person; and

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

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

(a-1) A county assessor-collector collecting fees on behalf
of a county assessor-collector whose office [that has been declared
as a disaster area or that] is closed or may be closed for a
protracted period of time as defined by the department for purposes
of Section 501.023 or 502.040 may retain the commission for fees
collected, but shall allocate the fees to the county [declared as a disaster area or] that is closed or may be closed for a protracted period of time.

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

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

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


SECTION 17. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.
President of the Senate

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 2075 passed the Senate on April 26, 2017, by the following vote: Yeas 30, Nays 1.

Secretary of the Senate

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 2075 passed the House on May 24, 2017, by the following vote: Yeas 146, Nays 0, two present not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

Approved: 6-12-2017

Date

Governor

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE 3 PM O'CLOCK

Secretary of State
TO: Honorable Geanie W. Morrison, Chair, House Committee on Transportation  
FROM: Ursula Parks, Director, Legislative Budget Board  
IN RE: SB2075 by Rodríguez (Relating to vehicle registration.), As Engrossed  

No significant fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.

The bill would amend Transportation Code §502.0023 to change the $10 annual extended commercial fleet vehicle registration fee to a one-time fee. The bill would direct the one-time $10 fee and the one-time fleet vehicle license plate manufacturing fee to be deposited to the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles Fund (currently deposited to the State Highway Fund). The bill would amend Transportation Code §502.057 to specify that a receipt for a vehicle registration renewal generated by an online registration system is proof of registration until 31 days after the date of renewal. The bill would amend Transportation Code §502.060(b) and §504.007(g) stipulating that no fee is required for the replacement of registration insignia or replacement of license plates if the county tax assessor-collector determines the owner paid for a prior replacement registration insignia or plates but did not receive them in the mail. The bill would take effect on September 1, 2017.

The bill would require fees currently deposited to the State Highway Fund (SHF) from extended commercial fleet vehicle registrations to be deposited to the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (TxDMV) Fund. Based on LBB's analysis of information provided by TxDMV, it is assumed these changes in the disposition of fees would not result in a significant impact to the SHF and TxDMV Fund revenue or cash flow and any costs associated with implementing the provisions of the bill could be absorbed within the agency's existing resources.

This legislation would do one or more of the following: create or recreate a dedicated account in the General Revenue Fund, create or recreate a special or trust fund either with or outside of the Treasury, or create a dedicated revenue source. The fund, account, or revenue dedication included in this bill would be subject to funds consolidation review by the current Legislature.

Local Government Impact

No significant fiscal implication to units of local government is anticipated.

Source Agencies: 304 Comptroller of Public Accounts, 608 Department of Motor Vehicles
LBB Staff: UP, AG, EH, TG
TO: Honorable Robert Nichols, Chair, Senate Committee on Transportation

FROM: Ursula Parks, Director, Legislative Budget Board

IN RE: SB2075 by Rodriguez (Relating to vehicle registration.), As Introduced

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