

SUBJECT:	Revising statute related to titling and registration of assembled trailers
COMMITTEE:	Transportation — favorable, without amendment
VOTE:	10 ayes — Canales, Ashby, Davis, Gámez, Caroline Harris, Landgraf, Lozano, Lujan, Patterson, Romero 0 nays 3 absent — Raney, Ordaz, Perez
SENATE VOTE:	On final passage (April 12) — 31 - 0
WITNESSES:	For — (<i>Registered, but did not testify</i> : Charlie Leal, Texas Farm Bureau) Against — None On — (<i>Registered, but did not testify</i> : Clint Thompson, TxDMV)
BACKGROUND:	Transportation Code sec. 731.001 defines “assembled trailer” as a trailer, semitrailer, or travel trailer that is built or assembled by a hobbyist. “Hobbyist” is defined as a person who: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• builds or assembles an assembled vehicle for personal use;• does not engage in the continuous sale of vehicles; and• is not the maker of a kit or a manufacturer. Concerns have been raised that recent legislation establishing procedures for the titling and registration of assembled vehicles inadvertently changed certain exemptions for custom farm trailers.
DIGEST:	SB 261 would require the owner of an assembled trailer, within 30 days of completing construction of the trailer, to apply for the registration of the trailer for:

- each registration year in which the trailer was used or was to be used on a public highway; and
- if the trailer was unregistered for a registration year that had begun and that applied to the trailer and if the trailer was used or to be used on a public highway, the remaining portion of that registration year.

The bill would remove assembled trailers from inclusion in the definition of assembled vehicles under Transportation Code sec. 731.001, transfer the definitions of “assembled trailer” and “hobbyist” to the Certificate of Title Act, and make conforming changes for these purposes.

The bill would specify that, for purposes of the Certificate of Title Act and statute governing vehicle registration, an assembled trailer would be considered, as applicable, a trailer, semitrailer, or travel trailer, including a farm trailer or farm semitrailer.

SB 261 would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2023.