

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
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H.B. 1368
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Intergovernmental Relations
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Committee Report (Amended)

DIGEST AND PURPOSE

Under current law, a person wishing to register a vehicle for use during emergencies by a nonprofit disaster relief organization is required to provide a statement by the county sheriff that the vehicle has not been used for any purpose other than emergencies. The sheriff is not required to inspect the vehicle or investigate how the vehicle is used. H.B. 1368 removes the requirement to obtain a statement from the sheriff to register a vehicle for use by a nonprofit disaster relief organization and adds a provision requiring the owner of the vehicle to provide a written statement that the vehicle has been used only for emergencies. H.B. 1368 also makes provisions for registration of a fleet of vehicles rather than requiring every vehicle in a fleet to be registered separately; and authorizes any vehicle owner to register a vehicle for a period longer than 12 months.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

Rulemaking authority is expressly granted to the Texas Department of Transportation in SECTION 1 (Section 502.0022, Transportation Code) of this bill.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Chapter 502A, Transportation Code, by adding Section 502.0022, as follows:

Sec. 502.0022. CONSOLIDATED REGISTRATION OF FLEET VEHICLES. (a) Requires the Texas Department of Transportation (department) to develop and implement a system of registration so that an owner of a fleet of motor vehicles may consolidate the registration of the motor vehicles in the fleet as an alternative to the separate registration of each motor vehicle in the fleet.

(b) Requires a system of consolidated registration under this section to allow the owner of a fleet of motor vehicles to register an entire fleet in the county of the owner's residence or principal place of business, or those vehicles in a fleet that are operated most regularly in the same county by registering the vehicles in that county.

(c) Requires the department by rule to define "fleet" for purposes of this section.

(d) Authorizes the department to adopt rules to administer this section.

SECTION 2. Amends Section 502.158(c), Transportation Code, to authorize an owner of a vehicle, rather than a passenger car or light truck that has not been previously registered in this or another state and is of the current or preceding model year, to pay vehicle registration fees for a designated period of 12, 24, or 36 months.

SECTION 3. Amends Section 502.203(b), Transportation Code, to require an application for registration under this section to include:

- a statement by the owner of the vehicle that the vehicle is used exclusively for

emergencies and has not been used for any other purpose; and

- a statement signed by an officer of the nonprofit disaster relief organization, rather than by the sheriff of the county in which the vehicle is registered, that the vehicle has not been used for any purpose other than emergencies and qualifies for registration under this section.

SECTION 4. (a) Provides that application of the change in law made by this Act to Section 502.203, Transportation Code, is prospective.

(b) Effective date: September 1, 2001.