

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
81R4307 JAM-F

S.B. 1235
By: Davis, Wendy
Transportation & Homeland Security
3/27/2009
As Filed

AUTHOR'S / SPONSOR'S STATEMENT OF INTENT

Automobile dealers are currently required to use cardboard products for temporary vehicle tags. Allowing new products to be introduced into the industry will relieve the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) from having to identify and be strapped with writing rules around the definition of cardboard. Extending the temporary buyer's vehicle tag and eliminating the "blue" supplemental tag will make it easier for law enforcement to identify counterfeit vehicle tags.

As proposed, S.B. 1235 authorizes automobile dealers to use products other than cardboard for temporary vehicle tags.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

This bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Section 501.022(d), Transportation Code, to provide that Subsection (c) does not apply to a motor vehicle operated on a public highway in this state with a buyer's temporary tag, rather than temporary cardboard tag, attached to the vehicle as provided by Chapter 503 (Dealer's and Manufacturer's Vehicle License Plates).

SECTION 2. Amends Sections 503.038(a) and (c), Transportation Code, to make conforming changes.

SECTION 3. Amends the heading to Section 503.062, Transportation Code, to read as follows:

Sec. 503.062. DEALER'S TEMPORARY TAGS.

SECTION 4. Amends Sections 503.062(a), (b) and (d), Transportation Code, as follows:

(a) Makes a conforming change.

(b) Provides that Subsection (a)(1) (relating to issuing a temporary tag to demonstrate an unregistered vehicle for sale purposes), does not prohibit a dealer from permitting a customer to operate a vehicle temporarily while the customer's vehicle is being repaired. Makes nonsubstantive changes.

(d) Makes conforming changes.

SECTION 5. Amends the heading to Section 503.0625, Transportation Code, to read as follows:

Sec. 503.0625. CONVERTER'S TEMPORARY TAGS.

SECTION 6. Amends Sections 503.0625(b), (e), and (f), Transportation Code, to make conforming changes.

SECTION 7. Amends Sections 503.0626(a) and (c), Transportation Code, to make conforming changes.

SECTION 8. Amends the heading to Section 503.063, Transportation Code, to read as follows:

Sec. 503.063. BUYER'S TEMPORARY TAGS.

SECTION 9. Amends Sections 503.063(a), (b), (g), and (h), Transportation Code, as follows:

(a) Makes a conforming change.

(b) Provides that the buyer's tag, except as provided by this section, is valid for the operation of the vehicle until the earlier of the date on which the vehicle is registered or the 60th, rather than 21st, day after the date of purchase.

(g) Deletes existing text authorizing a dealer, using the same vehicle-specific number generated under Subsection (e)(2)(A) (relating to Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) prescribing procedures for generating a vehicle-specific number), to issue an additional temporary cardboard buyer's tag to a person after the expiration of 20 working days after the issue of a temporary cardboard buyer's tag, and the person is authorized to operate the vehicle for which the tag was issued on the additional temporary cardboard buyer's tag if the dealer has been unable to obtain on behalf of the vehicle's owner the necessary documents to obtain permanent metal license plates because the documents are in the possession of a lienholder who has not complied with the terms of Section 501.115(a) (relating to requirements of lienholder when debt is satisfied) and providing that an additional tag issued under the terms of this subsection is valid for a maximum of 20 working days after the date of issue. Redesignates Subsection (h) as Subsection (g). Deletes existing text requiring a dealer, for each buyer's temporary cardboard tag other than an additional temporary cardboard buyer's tag under Subsection (g) to charge the buyer a registration fee of not more than \$5 as prescribed by TxDOT to be sent to the Comptroller of Public Accounts for deposit to the credit of the state highway fund.

SECTION 10. Amends Section 503.0631(c), Transportation Code, to make a conforming change.

SECTION 11. Amends Section 503.065(a), Transportation Code, to delete existing text authorizing TxDOT to issue or cause to be issued to a person a temporary license plate, rather than a temporary license plate made of cardboard or similar material authorizing a person to operate a new unregistered vehicle on a public highway of this state if the person meets certain conditions.

SECTION 12. Amends Section 503.067, Transportation Code, to make conforming changes.

SECTION 13. Amends Sections 503.068(a)-(c), Transportation Code, to make conforming changes.

SECTION 14. Amends Section 503.069(a), Transportation Code, to require that a license plate, other than an in-transit license plate, or a temporary tag issued under this chapter be displayed in accordance with Texas Transportation Commission, rather than board, rules. Makes a conforming change.

SECTION 15. Amends Section 601.002(12), Transportation Code, to redefine "vehicle registration."

SECTION 16. Repealer: Section 503.0632 (Notice to Buyer), Transportation Code.

SECTION 17. Makes application of Section 503.067, Transportation Code, as amended by this Act, prospective.

SECTION 18. Effective date: September 1, 2009.