

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 50th Legislature (2005)

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR ENGROSSED
SENATE BILL NO. 657

By: Gumm of the Senate

and

Roan of the House

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

An Act relating to motor vehicles; amending 47 O.S. 2001, Section 1113, as last amended by Section 4, Chapter 534, O.S.L. 2004 (47 O.S. Supp. 2004, Section 1113), which relates to license plates; modifying license plate characteristics; providing for the transfer of certain revenues to Oklahoma Tax Commission on monthly basis; requiring apportionment of net revenues; amending Section 10, Chapter 504, O.S.L. 2004 (47 O.S. Supp. 2004, Section 1135.1), which relates to special license plates; providing for issuance of special license plates to state agencies; allowing issuance of state agency plates without payment of certain fees; providing for codification; and providing an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 47 O.S. 2001, Section 1113, as last amended by Section 4, Chapter 534, O.S.L. 2004 (47 O.S. Supp. 2004, Section 1113), is amended to read as follows:

Section 1113. A. 1. Upon the filing of a registration application and the payment of the fees provided for in the Oklahoma Vehicle License and Registration Act, the Oklahoma Tax Commission shall assign to the vehicle described in the application a distinctive number, and issue to the owner of the vehicle a certificate of registration, one license plate and a yearly decal. For each subsequent registration year, the Tax Commission shall issue a yearly decal to be affixed to the license plate. The yearly decal shall have an identification number and the last two numbers of the registration year for which it shall expire. Except as

provided by Section 1113A of this title, the license plate shall be affixed to the exterior of the vehicle until a replacement license plate is applied for. If the owner applies for a replacement license plate, the Tax Commission shall charge the fee provided for in Section 1114 of this title. The yearly decal will validate the license plate for each registration period other than the year the license plate is issued. The license plate and decal shall be of such size, color, design and numbering as the Tax Commission may direct. However, yearly decals issued to the owner of a vehicle who has filed an affidavit with the appropriate motor license agent in accordance with Section 7-607 of this title shall be a separate and distinct color from all other decals issued under this section.

2. The license plate shall be securely attached to the rear of the vehicle, except truck-tractor plates which shall be attached to the front of the vehicle. The Tax Commission may, with the concurrence of the Department of Public Safety, by Joint Rule, change and direct the manner, place and location of display of any vehicle license plate when such action is deemed in the public interest. The license plate, decal and all letters and numbers shall be clearly visible at all times. The operation of a vehicle in this state, regardless of where such vehicle is registered, upon which the license plate is covered, overlaid or otherwise screened with any material, whether such material be clear, translucent, tinted or opaque, shall be a violation of this paragraph.

3. Upon payment of the annual registration fee provided in Section 1133 of this title, the Tax Commission or a motor license agent may issue a permanent nonexpiring license plate to an owner of one hundred or more commercial motor vehicles and for vehicles registered under the provisions of Section 1120 of this title. Upon payment of the annual registration fee, the Tax Commission shall issue a certificate of registration that shall be carried at all times in the vehicle for which it is issued. Provided, if the

registrant submits its application through electronic means, such qualified owners of one hundred or more commercial motor vehicles, properly registered pursuant to the provisions of Section 1133 of this title, may elect to receive a permanent certificate of registration that shall be carried at all times in the vehicle for which it is issued.

B. The license plates required under the provisions of this title shall conform to the requirements and specifications listed hereinafter:

1. Each license plate shall have a space for the placement of the yearly decals for each succeeding year of registration after the initial issue;

2. The provisions of the Oklahoma Vehicle License and Registration Act regarding the issuance of yearly decals shall not apply to the issuance of apportioned license plates, including license plates for state vehicles, and exempt plates for governmental entities and fire departments organized pursuant to Section 592 of Title 18 of the Oklahoma Statutes;

3. Within the limits herein prescribed the Tax Commission shall redesign the official vehicle license plates which currently bear the legend "Oklahoma OK" or "Oklahoma is OK!" and substitute therefor the legend "Oklahoma Native America" as further described in this paragraph. Except for personalized license plates and license plates issued for motorcycles and mopeds, the emblem on the state flag of Oklahoma as provided for in Section 91 of Title 25 of the Oklahoma Statutes shall be a part of all license plates issued after December 31, 1988. The Tax Commission may continue to issue license plates with the legend "Oklahoma is OK!" or "Oklahoma OK" until any inventory of such license plates is depleted but the Tax Commission shall not produce or cause to be produced any additional license plates with these legends. Except for personalized license plates, license plates issued for commercial vehicles, and license

plates issued for motorcycles and mopeds, the "Oklahoma Native America" emblem shall be a part of all license plates issued after December 31, 1993. The specifications for lettering style and appearance for the legend "Oklahoma Native America" shall be provided to the Tax Commission by the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department. The license plates shall be issued with the letters and numerals in the colors of green and white. All license plates and decals shall be made with reflectorized material as a background to the letters, numbers and characters ~~impressed~~ displayed thereon. The reflectorized material shall be of such a nature as to provide effective and dependable brightness during the service period for which the license plate or decal is issued;

4. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the Tax Commission shall design appropriate official license plates for all state vehicles. Such license plates shall be permanent in nature and designed in such manner as to remain with the vehicle for the duration of the vehicle's life span or until the title is transferred to a nongovernmental owner;

5. Within the limits prescribed in this section, the Tax Commission shall design appropriate official license plates for vehicles of the Oklahoma Highway Patrol. The license plates shall have the legend "Oklahoma OK" and shall contain the letters "OHP" followed by the state seal and the badge number of the Highway Patrol officer to whom the vehicle is assigned. The words "Oklahoma Highway Patrol" shall also be included on such license plates; and

6. Within the limits prescribed in this section, the Tax Commission shall design appropriate official license plates for vehicles of the Oklahoma Military Department. Such license plates shall have the legend "Oklahoma OK" and shall contain the letters "OMD" followed by the state seal and three numbers or letters as designated by the Adjutant General. The words "Oklahoma Military Department" shall also be included on such license plates.

C. Where the applicant has satisfactorily shown that the applicant owns the vehicle sought to be registered but is unable to produce documentary evidence of the ownership, a license plate may be issued upon approval by the Tax Commission. In such instances the reason for not issuing a certificate of title shall be indicated on the receipt given to the applicant. It shall still be the duty of the applicant to immediately take all necessary steps to obtain the Oklahoma certificate of title and it shall be unlawful for the applicant to sell the vehicle until the certificate has been obtained in the applicant's name.

D. The certificate of registration provided for in this section shall be in convenient form, and the certificate of registration, or a certified copy or photostatic copy thereof, duly authenticated by the Tax Commission, shall be carried at all times in or upon commercial vehicles so registered, in such manner as to permit a ready examination thereof upon demand by any peace officer of the state or duly authorized employee of the Department of Public Safety. Any such officer or agent may seize and hold such commercial vehicle when the operator of the same does not have the registration certificate in the operator's possession or when any such officer or agent determines that the registration certificate has been obtained by misrepresentation of any essential or material fact or when any number or identifying information appearing on such certificate has been changed, altered, obliterated or concealed in any way, until the proper registration or identification of such vehicle has been made or produced by the owner thereof.

E. The purchaser of a new or used manufactured home shall, within thirty (30) days of the date of purchase, register the home with the Tax Commission or a motor license agent pursuant to the provisions of Section 1117 of this title. For a new manufactured home, it shall be the responsibility of the dealer selling the home to place a temporary license plate on the home in the same manner as

provided in Section 1128 of this title for other new motor vehicles. For the first year that any manufactured home is registered in this state, the Tax Commission shall issue a metal license plate which shall be affixed to the manufactured home. The temporary dealer license plate or the metal license plate shall be displayed on the manufactured home at all times when upon a public roadway; provided, a repossession affidavit issued pursuant to Sections 1110 and 1126 of this title shall be permissible in lieu of a current license plate and decal for the purposes of removing a repossessed manufactured home to a secure location. Manufactured homes previously registered and subject to ad valorem taxation as provided by law shall have a decal affixed at the time ad valorem taxes are paid for such manufactured home; provided, for a manufactured home permanently affixed to real estate, no decal or license plate shall be required to be affixed and the owner thereof shall be given a receipt upon payment of ad valorem taxes due on the home. The Tax Commission shall make sufficient plates and decals available to the various motor license agents of the state in order for an owner of a manufactured home to acquire the plate or decal. A One Dollar (\$1.00) fee shall be charged for issuance of any plate or decal. The fee shall be apportioned each month to the General Revenue Fund of the State Treasury.

F. The manufactured home license plate shall be designed so that it is easily visible for purposes of verification by a county assessor that the manufactured home is properly assessed for ad valorem taxation. The plate shall be designed for a yearly decal. In the first year of registration, a decal shall be issued for placement on the license plate indicating payment of applicable registration fees and excise taxes. In the second and all subsequent years for which the manufactured home is subject to ad valorem taxation, an annual decal shall be affixed to the license plate as evidence of payment of ad valorem taxes. The Tax

Commission shall issue decals to the various county treasurers of the state in order for a manufactured home owner to obtain such decal each year. Upon presentation of a valid ad valorem tax receipt, the manufactured home owner shall be issued the annual decal.

G. Upon the registration of a manufactured home in this state for the first time or upon discovery of a manufactured home previously registered within this state for which the information required by this subsection is not known, the Tax Commission shall obtain:

1. The name of the owner of the manufactured home;
2. The serial number or identification number of the manufactured home;
3. A legal description or address of the location for the home;
4. The actual retail selling price of the manufactured home excluding Oklahoma taxes;
5. The certificate of title number for the home; and
6. Any other information which the Tax Commission deems to be necessary.

The application for registration shall also include the school district in which the manufactured home is located or is to be located. The information shall be entered into a computer data system which shall be used by the Tax Commission to provide information to county assessors upon request by the assessor. The assessor may request any information from the system in order to properly assess a manufactured home for ad valorem taxation.

SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1120.2 of Title 47, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

On a monthly basis, the Corporation Commission shall transfer to the Oklahoma Tax Commission the amount of net revenues collected under the International Registration Plan to be apportioned by the

Tax Commission in accordance with the provisions of Section 1104 of Title 47 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

SECTION 3. AMENDATORY Section 10, Chapter 504, O.S.L. 2004 (47 O.S. Supp. 2004, Section 1135.1), is amended to read as follows:

Section 1135.1 A. The Oklahoma Tax Commission is hereby authorized to design and issue appropriate official special license plates to persons as provided by this section.

Special license plates shall not be transferred to any other person but shall be removed from the vehicle upon transfer of ownership and retained. The special license plate may then be used on another vehicle but only after such other vehicle has been registered for the current year.

Special license plates shall be renewed each year by the Tax Commission or a motor license agent. The Tax Commission shall annually notify by mail all persons issued special license plates. The notice shall contain all necessary information and shall contain instructions for the renewal procedure upon presentation to a motor license agent or the Tax Commission. The license plates shall be issued on a staggered system. The motor license agent fees shall be paid out of the Oklahoma Tax Commission Reimbursement Fund.

B. The special license plates provided by this section are as follows:

1. State Agency and Political Subdivision Plates - such plates shall be designed for any vehicle owned by any state agency or political subdivision of this state having obtained a proper Oklahoma certificate of title. Such state agencies and political subdivisions shall file an annual report with the Tax Commission stating the agency where such vehicle is located. Such license plates shall be permanent in nature and designed in such a manner as to remain with the vehicle for the duration of the life span of the

vehicle or until the title is transferred to an owner who is not a state agency or political subdivision.

The initial registration fee for political subdivision plates shall be Eight Dollars (\$8.00) and shall be in addition to all other registration fees provided by law, except the registration fees levied by Section 1132 of ~~Title 47 of the Oklahoma Statutes~~ this title. State agency plates shall be issued without payment of any registration fees required by this title;

2. Tax-Exempt or Nonprofit License Plates - such plates shall be designed for:

- a. any motor bus, manufactured home, or mobile chapel and power unit owned and operated by a religious corporation or society of this state holding a valid exemption from taxation issued pursuant to Section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C., Section 501(a), and listed as an exempt organization in Section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, as amended, 26 U.S.C., Section 501(c) (3), and that is used by the corporation or society solely for the furtherance of its religious functions,
- b. any vehicle owned and operated only by nonprofit organizations devoted exclusively to youth programs including, but not limited to, the Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts of America,
- c. any vehicle, except passenger automobiles, owned or operated by nonprofit organizations actually involved in programs for the employment of the handicapped and used exclusively in the transportation of goods or materials for such organization,
- d. any vehicle owned and operated by a nonprofit organization that provides older persons transportation to and from medical, dental and

religious services and relief from business and social isolation,

e. any vehicle owned and operated by a private nonprofit organization that:

- (1) warehouses and distributes surplus foods to other nonprofit agencies and organizations, and
- (2) holds a valid exemption from taxation issued pursuant to Section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code, as amended, 26 U.S.C., Section 501(c), and listed as an exempt organization in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, as amended, and
- (3) uses such vehicle exclusively for the transportation of such surplus foods, or

f. any vehicle which:

- (1) is owned and operated by a private, nonprofit organization which is exempt from taxation pursuant to the provisions of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C., Section 501(c)(3), and which is primarily funded by a fraternal or civic service organization with at least one hundred local chapters or clubs, and
- (2) is designed and used to provide mobile health screening services to the general public at no cost to the recipient, and for which no reimbursement of any kind is received from any health insurance provider, health maintenance organization or governmental program.

Any person claiming to be eligible for a tax-exempt or nonprofit license plate under the provisions of this paragraph must have the name of the tax-exempt or nonprofit organization prominently displayed upon the outside of the vehicle, except those vehicles

registered pursuant to the provisions of subparagraph b of this paragraph, unless such display is prohibited by federal or state law or by state agency rules. No vehicle shall be licensed as a tax-exempt or nonprofit vehicle unless the vehicle has affixed on each side thereof, in letters not less than two (2) inches high and two (2) inches wide, the name of the tax-exempt or nonprofit organization or the insignia or other symbol of such organization which shall be of sufficient size, shape and color as to be readily legible during daylight hours from a distance of fifty (50) feet while the vehicle is not in motion.

The registration fee shall be Eight Dollars (\$8.00) and shall be in addition to all other registration fees provided by law, except the registration fees levied by Section 1132 of this title;

3. Physically Disabled License Plates - such plates shall be designed for persons who are eligible for an insignia as a physically disabled person under the provisions of Section 15-112 of this title. It shall prominently display the international accessibility symbol, which is a stylized human figure in a wheelchair. The Tax Commission shall also design physically disabled license plates for motorcycles owned by persons who are eligible for an insignia as a physically disabled person pursuant to the provisions of Section 15-112 of this title. Upon the death of the physically disabled person, the special license plate shall be returned to the Tax Commission. There shall be no fee for such plate in addition to the rate provided by the Oklahoma Vehicle License and Registration Act for the registration of the vehicle. For an additional fee of Ten Dollars (\$10.00), a person eligible for a physically disabled license plate shall have the option of purchasing a duplicate physically disabled special license plate which shall be securely attached to the front of the vehicle. The original physically disabled special license plate shall be securely attached to the rear of the vehicle at all times.

Any person who is eligible for a physically disabled license plate and whose vehicle has had modifications because of the physical disability of the owner or of a family member within the second degree of consanguinity of the owner, may register the vehicle for a flat fee of Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00). This fee shall be in lieu of all other registration fees provided by the Oklahoma Vehicle License and Registration Act;

4. Indian Tribal License Plates - such plates shall be designed for any vehicle of a native American Indian Tribal Association exempted in Sections 201 through 204 of Public Law 97-473 and used by the tribal association exclusively for the furtherance of its tribal functions.

The registration fee shall be Eight Dollars (\$8.00) and shall be in addition to all other registration fees provided by law, except the registration fees levied by Section 1132 of this title;

5. Hearing Impaired License Plates - such plates shall be designed for persons who are hearing impaired. Such persons may apply for a hearing-impaired license plate for each vehicle with a rated carrying capacity of one (1) ton or less upon the presentment of an application on a form furnished by the Tax Commission and certified by a physician holding a valid license to practice pursuant to the licensing provisions of Title 59 of the Oklahoma Statutes, attesting that the person is hearing impaired. The license plate shall be designed so that such persons may be readily identified as being hearing impaired. There shall be no additional fee for the plate, but all other registration fees provided by the Oklahoma Vehicle License and Registration Act shall apply;

6. Antique or Classic vehicles - such plates shall be designed and issued for any vehicle twenty-five (25) years of age or older, based upon the date of manufacture thereof and which travels on the highways of this state primarily incidental to historical or exhibition purposes only.

The registration fee shall be Eight Dollars (\$8.00) and shall be in addition to all other registration fees provided by law, except the registration fees levied by Section 1132 of this title; and

7. Honorary Consul License Plate - such plates shall be designed to include the words "Honorary Consul" and issued to persons who are honorary consuls authorized by the United States to perform consular duties. Persons applying for such license plates must show proof of standing as an honorary consul. The fee for such plate shall be Eight Dollars (\$8.00) and shall be in addition to all other registration fees required by the Oklahoma Vehicle License and Registration Act. The owner of the vehicle that possesses such license plates shall return the special license plates to the Oklahoma Tax Commission if the owner disposes of the vehicle during the registration year or ceases to be authorized to perform consular duties.

C. Special license plates provided by this section shall be designed in such a manner as to identify the use or ownership of the vehicle. Use of any vehicle possessing a special license plate provided by this section for any purpose not specified herein shall be grounds for revocation of the special license plate and registration certificate.

D. The fees provided by this section shall be deposited in the Oklahoma Tax Commission Reimbursement Fund.

SECTION 4. This act shall become effective November 1, 2005.

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