

CHAPTER 767

H.B. No. 2420

An Act relating to special license plates for persons who are honorary consuls.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. Chapter 88, General Laws, Acts of the 41st Legislature, 2nd Called Session, 1929 (Article 6675a-1 et seq., Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes), is amended by adding Section 5e.4 to read as follows:

Sec. 5e.4. (a) The department shall provide for the issuance of special license plates for passenger cars and light commercial motor vehicles having manufacturers' rated carrying capacities of one ton or less that are owned by persons who are honorary consuls authorized by the United States government to perform consular duties. The license plates shall bear the words "Honorary Consul."

(b) A person may apply to the department for the license plates at any time on a form prescribed by the department. The department shall require with each application proof of eligibility to receive the license plates. Registration under this section is valid for one year and expires in the same manner as do regular motor vehicle registrations.

(c) The fee for registration under this section and the issuance of a set of the special license plates is the annual registration fee for the vehicle plus an additional fee in the same amount as the additional fee charged under Section 5c of this Act for personalized prestige license plates. The department shall submit all fees for registrations under this section to the state treasurer for deposit in the state highway fund.

(d) If license plates issued under this section are lost, stolen, or mutilated, the owner of the vehicle for which the plates were issued may obtain replacement plates from the department by paying a replacement fee of \$2. If the owner of a vehicle registered under this section disposes of the vehicle during the registration year or ceases to be authorized to perform consular duties, the person shall return the special license plates to the department.

SECTION 2. Subsection (b), Section 3aa, Chapter 88, General Laws, Acts of the 41st Legislature, 2nd Called Session, 1929 (Article 6675a-3aa, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes), is amended to read as follows:

(b) The Department may provide for issuance of specially designated plates to those exempt by law. ~~[With respect to vehicles used in the conduct of consular affairs, the Department shall provide specially designated plates on which the words "Consular Official" prominently appear.]~~

SECTION 3. Subsection (e), Section 3, Chapter 88, General Laws, Acts of the 41st Legislature, 2nd Called Session, 1929 (Article 6675a-3, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes), is repealed.

SECTION 4. The importance of this legislation and the crowded condition of the calendars in both houses create an emergency and an imperative public necessity that the constitutional rule requiring bills to be read on three several days in each house be suspended, and this rule is hereby suspended.

Passed by the House on May 21, 1985, by a non-record vote; passed by the Senate on May 26, 1985, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Approved: June 14, 1985

Effective: August 26, 1985