

CHAPTER 534

H.B. No. 644

AN ACT

relating to the annual registration of certain farm trailers, farm semitrailers, or forestry vehicles.

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

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

(c) Owners of farm trailers and farm semitrailers with a gross weight exceeding four thousand (4,000) pounds but not exceeding *thirty-four thousand (34,000)* [~~twenty thousand (20,000)~~] pounds and used solely to transport their own seasonally harvested agricultural products and livestock from the place of production to the place of process, market or storage thereof, or farm supplies from the place of loading to the farm, and owners of machinery used solely for the purpose of drilling water wells or construction machinery (not designed for the transportation of persons or property on the public highways), may operate or move such vehicles temporarily upon the highways without the payment of the regular registration fees

as prescribed by law, provided the owners of such farm trailers and semitrailers and machinery secure for a fee of five dollars (\$5) for each year or portion thereof a distinguishing license plate from the *Texas [State Highway] Department of Transportation* through the County Tax Collector upon forms prescribed and furnished by the department. Such vehicles shall be exempt from the inspection requirements of Sections 140 and 141 of the Uniform Act Regulating Traffic on Highways, as amended (Article 6701d, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes).

SECTION 2. 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 5p to read as follows:

Sec. 5p. (a) In this section, "forestry vehicle" means a vehicle used exclusively for transporting untreated ties, stave bolts, plywood bolts, pulpwood billets, wood chips, stumps, sawdust, moss, bark, wood shavings, and property used in production of those products.

(b) The department shall design and provide for the issuance of special license plates for a forestry vehicle. The license plates shall bear the words "forestry vehicle."

(c) The department shall issue license plates under this section to a person who:

(1) applies to the department on a form prescribed by the department;

(2) pays the fee prescribed under Subsection (d) of this section; and

(3) submits with the application proof, acceptable to the department, that the person is eligible to receive the license plates.

(d) The department shall prescribe a fee for issuance of special plates under this section at an amount necessary to recover the cost of administering this section. This fee is in addition to any other fee imposed by this Act. The department shall collect any additional fee that a county imposes under this Act for registration of the forestry vehicle and shall forward the fee to the appropriate county for disposition as provided by this Act. The department shall deposit fees collected under this section, except fees forwarded to a county, in the state treasury to the credit of the state highway fund.

(e) If license plates issued under this section are lost, stolen, or mutilated, the owner of the forestry vehicle may obtain replacement plates from the department by paying a replacement fee prescribed by the department at an amount necessary to recover the cost of providing the replacement plates.

SECTION 3. 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, and that this Act take effect and be in force from and after its passage, and it is so enacted.

Passed by the House on May 4, 1993: Yeas 139, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting; passed by the Senate on May 23, 1993: Yeas 30, Nays 0.

Approved June 8, 1993.

Effective June 8, 1993.