

SUBJECT: Application for vehicle title under International Registration Plan

COMMITTEE: Transportation — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 7 ayes — Alexander, Siebert, Edwards, Hamric, Hawley, Hill, Uher
0 nays
2 absent — Y. Davis, Noriega

WITNESSES: For — Les Findeisen, Texas Motor Transportation Association
Against — None

BACKGROUND: Transportation Code, sec. 501.023 requires motor vehicle owners to apply for a certificate of title from the county assessor-collector in the county where the owner resides or where the vehicle is purchased. The assessor-collector must forward the application to the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) within 24 hours of receiving the application.

Commercial motor vehicle operators who conduct business across state or national lines must pay state vehicle taxes according to the apportioned miles driven within the state. Under the International Registration Plan, operators who register the ownership of a vehicle outside the state must apply for a certificate of title in the state for registration purposes only.

DIGEST: HB 3060 would allow owners and lessees of commercial motor vehicles operating under the International Registration Plan to apply for certificates of title directly from TxDOT, if the title was only for registration purposes. All fees required for the application process would be paid to TxDOT.

This bill would take effect September 1, 1999.

SUPPORTERS SAY: Under current law, commercial truckers who apply for a registration-only title must process paperwork both at a county tax assessor-collector's office and at a TxDOT regional office. This causes unnecessary delays for truckers in the registration process.

HB 3060
House Research Organization
page 2

HB 3060 would allow truckers to register and pay all necessary fees at one stop, saving them considerable time and effort. Counties would not lose any fees under a one-stop registration system. TxDOT would remit all appropriate fees to the counties after a truck was registered. Counties also could save time for commercial vehicle registrations by processing registrations in bulk at a convenient time, instead of handling each registration individually while truckers are waiting in line at the office.

OPPONENTS
SAY:

County tax assessor-collectors should not be removed from the registration process. County officials need to review each application as it comes in to give it the best review possible while the applicant is present in the office.