

SUBJECT: Allowing motor vehicle title, registration application in any willing county

COMMITTEE: Transportation — committee substitute recommended

VOTE: 10 ayes — Canales, E. Thompson, Ashby, Bucy, Davis, Harris, Lozano, Martinez, Ortega, Perez

2 nays — Rogers, Smithee

1 absent — Landgraf

WITNESSES: For — April Ancira, Texas Automobile Dealers Association; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Wyatt Wainwright, Houston Automobile Dealers Association; Morris Wilkes, New Car Dealers of West Texas; Pamela Crail, SA Auto Dealers; Robert Braziel, Texas Automobile Dealers Association; Mario Martinez, Texas Independent Automobile Dealers Association; Royce Poinsett, Texas Motorcycle Dealers Association; Mark Borskey, Texas Recreational Vehicle Association)

Against — Shay Luedeke, Tax Assessor-Collector Association of Texas; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Melissa Shannon, Bexar County Commissioners Court; Jim Allison, County Judges and Commissioners Association of Texas; Daniel Collins and Ruben Gonzalez, El Paso County; Thamara Narvaez, Harris County Commissioners Court; Julie Wheeler, Travis County Commissioners Court)

On — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Clint Thompson, Texas Department of Motor Vehicles)

BACKGROUND: Some have called for the Legislature to make permanent certain temporary waivers related to the titling and registration of motor vehicles issued during the COVID-19 pandemic to address the significant backlog of transactions facing counties and motor vehicle dealers.

DIGEST: CSHB 3113 would specify that an owner of a motor vehicle, including an owner of a motor vehicle brought into Texas by a person other than a

manufacturer or importer, could apply to obtain a title to any county assessor-collector who was willing to accept the application. A seller who applied for a motor vehicle registration or title could apply to the county assessor-collector of the county in which the owner was domiciled or the motor vehicle was purchased or encumbered or to any county assessor-collector who was willing to accept the application.

A system of extended registration would have to allow the owner of a commercial fleet to register the entire fleet in any county in which the county assessor-collector was willing to accept the registration.

A registration application also could be made through any county assessor-collector willing to accept the application. A vehicle owner could concurrently apply for a title and registration through any such county assessor-collector.

A county assessor-collector collecting certain vehicle titling and registration fees on behalf of another assessor-collector would have to collect all taxes, fees, and other revenue based on the vehicle owner's county of residence. The owner's county of residence would be the recipient of all revenue collected as a result of the transaction, except that the county processing the application could retain the portion of the title application fee and the processing and handling fee that the tax assessor-collector was authorized to retain.

CSHB 3113 would make several conforming changes to current law and would repeal the requirement for applications submitted electronically to the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles to request the purchaser's choice of county as the recipient of all revenue collected as a result of the transaction. The bill also would repeal the requirement for the department to develop a form or electronic process for designating a purchaser's choice of county.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2021.