

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the exemption from the taxes imposed on the sale, use,
3 or rental of certain motor vehicles owned or used by a church,
4 religious society, or open-enrollment charter school and from
5 registration fees for motor vehicles owned by open-enrollment
6 charter schools.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

8 SECTION 1. Sections 152.001(7) and (12), Tax Code, are
9 amended to read as follows:

10 (7) "Public agency" means:

11 (A) a department, commission, board, office,
12 institution, or other agency of this state or of a county, city,
13 town, school district, hospital district, water district, or other
14 special district or authority or political subdivision created by
15 or under the constitution or the statutes of this state; ~~or~~

16 (B) an unincorporated agency or instrumentality
17 of the United States; or

18 (C) an open-enrollment charter school.

19 (12) "Motor vehicle used for religious purposes" means
20 a motor vehicle that is:

21 (A) a trailer or is designed to carry more than
22 six passengers;

23 (B) sold to, rented to, or used by a church or
24 religious society;

1 (C) used primarily by a church or religious
2 society [~~for the purpose of providing transportation to and from a~~
3 ~~church or religious service or meeting~~]; and

4 (D) not registered as a passenger vehicle and not
5 used primarily for the personal or official needs or duties of a
6 minister.

7 SECTION 2. Section 502.453(a), Transportation Code, is
8 amended to read as follows:

9 (a) The owner of a motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer
10 may annually apply for registration under Section 502.451 and is
11 exempt from the payment of a registration fee under this chapter if
12 the vehicle is:

13 (1) owned by and used exclusively in the service of:

14 (A) the United States;

15 (B) this state; [~~or~~]

16 (C) a county, municipality, or school district in
17 this state; or

18 (D) an open-enrollment charter school;

19 (2) owned by a commercial transportation company and
20 used exclusively to provide public school transportation services
21 to a school district under Section 34.008, Education Code;

22 (3) designed and used exclusively for fire fighting;

23 (4) owned by a volunteer fire department and used
24 exclusively in the conduct of department business;

25 (5) privately owned and used by a volunteer
26 exclusively in county marine law enforcement activities, including
27 rescue operations, under the direction of the sheriff's department;

1 (6) used by law enforcement under an alias for covert
2 criminal investigations; or

3 (7) owned by units of the United States Coast Guard
4 Auxiliary headquartered in Texas and used exclusively for conduct
5 of United States Coast Guard or Coast Guard Auxiliary business and
6 operations, including search and rescue, emergency communications,
7 and disaster operations.

8 SECTION 3. The change in law made by this Act does not
9 affect tax liability accruing before the effective date of this
10 Act. That liability continues in effect as if this Act had not been
11 enacted, and the former law is continued in effect for the
12 collection of taxes due and for civil and criminal enforcement of
13 the liability for those taxes.

14 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 897 was passed by the House on April 13, 2017, by the following vote: Yeas 138, Nays 0, 3 present, not voting; and that the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 897 on May 26, 2017, by the following vote: Yeas 144, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 897 was passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 24, 2017, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor