

2026 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 72

BY SENATOR HODGES

MOTOR VEHICLES. Provides for electronic titles and registration of motor vehicles. (gov sig)

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 32:707.2(A), (C)(1) and (2), and (D), to enact R.S. 32:702(18),

3 705(B)(6) and (7), 707.2(I) and (J), 707.2.1, 707.2.2, and 714, and to repeal R.S.

4 32:707.2(G), relative to the office of motor vehicles; to provide for the acceptance

5 of digital signatures; to provide for the acceptance of electronic signatures; to

6 provide for system requirements for electronic lien, titling, and recordation of motor

7 vehicles; to provide for the duties of the office of motor vehicles; to provide for the

8 use of electronic signatures; to provide for civil immunity; to provide for

9 effectiveness; to provide for severability; to direct the Louisiana State Law Institute

10 to alphabetize and renumber definitions; and to provide for related matters.

11 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

12 Section 1. R.S. 32:707.2(A), (C)(1) and (2), and (D) are hereby amended and

13 reenacted and R.S. 32:702(18), 705(B)(6) and (7), 707.2(I) and (J), 707.2.1, 707.2.2, and 714

14 are hereby enacted to read as follows:

15 §702. Definitions

16 As used in this Chapter:

17 * * *

1 **(18) "Certificate of title" means the record that is evidence of ownership**
2 **of a motor vehicle, whether paper or electronic, issued by the department.**

3 * * *

4 §705. Acceptance and delivery of certificate

5 * * *

6 B. For purposes of this Section, an "endorsement" means one of the
7 following:

8 * * *

9 **(6) The electronic signature of the seller affixed to an electronic record**
10 **of assignment or transfer of title in a manner authorized by the department,**
11 **consistent with the provisions of the Uniform Electronic Transaction Act, R.S.**
12 **9:2601 et seq. The electronic signatures shall comply with the Authentication**
13 **Assurance Level 2 (AAL2) security standard as defined in the National Institute**
14 **of Standards and Technology Special Publication 800-63-3.**

15 **(7) An electronic signature of the seller affixed through an electronic**
16 **titling system or other electronic process approved by the department, which**
17 **shall have the same force and effect as a handwritten signature and**
18 **endorsement executed pursuant to Paragraph (1) or (2) of this Subsection.**

19 * * *

20 §707.2. Electronic ~~media~~ system for lien recordation and title information; fees;
21 required bond; confidentiality of information; rules and regulations

22 A.~~(1)~~ The department shall develop and implement on a statewide basis ~~no~~
23 ~~later than January 1, 2010,~~ a computer system which will permit the electronic
24 recording of information concerning the perfection and release of vehicle security
25 interests without submitting or receiving paper title documents, **including electronic**
26 **lien, electronic titling, and electronic registration.** The department ~~may~~ **shall**
27 allow the submission of vehicle title information for new, transferred, and corrected
28 certificates of title, including the perfection and release of security interests, through
29 electronic ~~media~~ **means** in a cost-effective manner ~~in lieu of the submission and~~

1 ~~maintenance of paper documents otherwise required by this Chapter.~~ The system
2 shall enable the ability to transact, process, record, and transmit certificates of
3 title through a completely electronic process for:

4 (a) All business entities and their service providers applying for
5 automotive titles and registrations, for itself or the customers.

6 (b) Electronic submission of liens and lien satisfactions by financial
7 institutions and its service providers pursuant to R.S. 32:708.

8 (2) The electronic lien, electronic titling, and electronic registration
9 system shall provide that any lien or security pursuant to R.S. 32:708 shall be
10 electronically transmitted to the department based on the following:

11 (a) If there are one or more liens or encumbrances on the motor vehicle,
12 the department shall electronically transmit the lien to the first lienholder and
13 notify the first lienholder of any additional liens, provided that a motor vehicle
14 lien is noted on the face of the certificate of title and notwithstanding any other
15 requirements in this Chapter.

16 (i) Subsequent lien satisfactions shall be electronically transmitted to the
17 department and shall include the name and address of the person satisfying the
18 lien.

19 (ii) A certificate of title shall not be issued until the last lien is satisfied
20 and there is a clear certificate of title that can be issued to the owner of the
21 vehicle. The department is not obligated to print a paper title until the final lien
22 is satisfied, except where specifically requested by a dealer or financial
23 institution to fulfill its business requirements. A paper certificate of title shall
24 be issued only upon request of the vehicle owner or lienholder and upon
25 payment of any applicable fees established by the department.

26 (b)(i) Vehicles subject to an electronic lien shall have the certificate of
27 title for the vehicle considered to be physically held by the lienholder for the
28 purpose of compliance with state and federal odometer disclosure requirements.

29 (ii) A duly certified copy of the office of motor vehicle's electronic record

1 of the lien shall be admissible in any civil, criminal, or administrative
2 proceeding in this state as evidence of the existence of a lien.

3 * * *

4 C.(1) An approved public license tag agent operating a secured host computer
5 system interfacing with the computer system of the Department of Public Safety and
6 Corrections, office of motor vehicles, and the computer system of a lending
7 institution or other sales finance company shall be bonded in an amount specified by
8 the department. The public license tag agent is hereby authorized to charge a fee to
9 customers utilizing this electronic ~~media~~ system.

10 (2) Each federally insured depository institution that originates more than ~~two~~
11 ~~hundred fifty~~ **twenty-five** motor vehicle transactions per year, and each finance
12 company, lending institution, or other lender shall designate a public tag agent with
13 which such bank, finance company, lending institution, or other lender shall interface
14 its computer system for the purpose of receiving electronic confirmation from the
15 department, of the receipt and the filing of the security interest on the subject motor
16 vehicle. Each federally insured depository institution that originates more than ~~two~~
17 ~~hundred fifty~~ **twenty-five** motor vehicle transactions per year, and each finance
18 company, lending institution, or other lender shall also designate such public tag
19 agent when transmitting a release or satisfaction of its lien.

20 * * *

21 D. Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, a written or printed report
22 of an electronic ~~media~~ transaction or recording required under the provisions of this
23 Section, if certified as true and correct by the department, shall serve as evidence of
24 any signature, acknowledgment, or information which was provided to or by the
25 department through electronic means, and the certification shall be admissible in any
26 legal proceeding as evidence of the facts stated therein.

27 * * *

28 **I. Lienholders shall process electronic lien releases within two business**
29 **days from the date the funds are deemed collected and shall maintain real-time**

1 accuracy of status information.

2 J. Beginning twelve months after the effective date on which the office
3 of motor vehicles certifies that the electronic lien, electronic titling, and
4 electronic registration functionality is available for use by all licensed motor
5 vehicle dealers statewide, each motor vehicle dealer licensed pursuant to R.S.
6 32:1251 et seq., shall submit all applications for certificates of title, registration,
7 and other ownership transfer documents through the electronic lien, electronic
8 titling, and electronic registration system, except contrary to any other
9 provision of law or provided by rule of the department.

10 §707.2.1. Electronic signatures and records for motor vehicle transactions

11 A. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, any document,
12 record, or instrument required in connection with the sale, lease, transfer,
13 titling, registration, or financing of a motor vehicle, unless otherwise exempted
14 by this Section shall be created, executed, transmitted, and stored electronically,
15 including but not limited to the following:

16 (1) Titling documents.

17 (2) Registration applications.

18 (3) Odometer disclosures.

19 (4) Secure and limited powers of attorney.

20 (5) Electronic attestations.

21 B.(1) Any documents used to transfer ownership of a vehicle to an
22 insurance company after payment of damages may be signed electronically and
23 reproduced in paper form and shall not require notarization. The supporting
24 documents include but are not limited to the following:

25 (a) Limited powers of attorney.

26 (b) Applications for duplicate titles.

27 (c) Odometer disclosure forms.

28 (2) Electronic signatures shall comply with the Authentication Assurance
29 Level 2 (AAL2) security standard as defined in the National Institute of

1 Standards and Technology Special Publication 800-63-3.

2 C.(1) The Department of Public Safety and Corrections, office of motor
3 vehicles, shall accept electronic records and electronic signatures for the
4 documents and records identified in Subsection A of this Section and any
5 electronic signature or electronic record accepted by the department pursuant
6 to this Section shall have the same force and effect as an original written
7 document or handwritten signature and shall satisfy any legal requirement for
8 a written record or signature.

9 (2) The department shall promulgate rules and regulations in accordance
10 with the Administrative Procedure Act as may be necessary to implement the
11 provisions of this Section, including but not limited to rules governing:

12 (a) Electronic signatures and authentication standards.

13 (b) Security and identity verification procedures.

14 D. An electronic signature that is authenticated in a manner approved
15 by the department shall satisfy any requirement for a written signature and
16 shall not require notarization.

17 E. An electronically signed, or a legibly scanned or imaged copy thereof,
18 shall have the same force and effect as an original paper document bearing a
19 handwritten signature and shall be admissible for all legal and evidentiary
20 purposes to the same extent as the original paper document.

21 F.(1) A dealer or authorized officer, as set forth in R.S. 32:702, using an
22 approved system in good faith and without actual knowledge of fraud or
23 unauthorized access, shall be immune from civil liability arising solely from the
24 use of electronic signatures, remote notarization of powers of attorney or
25 electronic records, including claims alleging improper execution, authentication,
26 or transmission, provided the dealer complied with the requirements of this
27 Section and any rules promulgated by the department.

28 (2) The immunity provided for in Paragraph (1) of this Subsection shall
29 not apply to intentional misconduct or gross negligence.

1 §707.2.2. Secure digital motor vehicle titles

2 A. The Department of Public Safety and Corrections, office of motor
3 vehicles, shall implement a system that offers vehicle title holders a fully
4 paperless, secure digital vehicle title that may be issued in lieu of a paper
5 certificate of title.

6 B. Once implemented, the secure digital title system shall:

7 (1) Include all functions related to title reassignments.

8 (2) Meet or exceed applicable security requirements as set forth in
9 regulations promulgated by the department.

10 (3) Provide title holders with online, real-time access to motor vehicle
11 titles and status of titles in process.

12 C. A secure digital vehicle title produced under this Section shall be
13 regarded as an official title from the state of Louisiana and fully recognized
14 legally for any motor vehicle related transactions within the state and all other
15 United States jurisdictions.

16 D. The secure digital title system shall permit the electronic transfer,
17 reassignment, and recording of ownership of a motor vehicle. Ownership
18 transfers executed through an approved electronic title system shall have the
19 same legal effect as transfers executed through a paper certificate of title.

20 Licensed motor vehicle dealers may complete title assignments, reassignments
21 of ownership, and related documents through the electronic system without
22 requiring issuance of a paper certificate of title.

23 E. A duly certified copy of the office of motor vehicle's secure digital title
24 shall be admissible in any civil, criminal, or administrative proceeding in this
25 state as evidence of the existence of the title.

26 F. The commissioner of the office of motor vehicles shall promulgate any
27 rules and regulations necessary to implement the provisions of this Section.

28 * * *

29 §714. Titling; electronic signature

1 **A. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any document required**
2 **or permitted to be executed in connection with the sale, transfer, titling,**
3 **registration, or encumbrance of a motor vehicle may be created, executed, and**
4 **submitted in electronic form when the office of motor vehicles or its agents have**
5 **the technological capability to do so, and shall not deny legal effect or**
6 **enforceability to a document solely due to its electronic form.**

7 **B. An electronic signature shall satisfy any requirement of law that a**
8 **document be signed, endorsed, or executed. Nothing in this Section shall be**
9 **construed to waive or eliminate any witnessing, acknowledgment, notarization,**
10 **or other execution formality otherwise required by law.**

11 **C. Any document required to be notarized in connection with a motor**
12 **vehicle transaction may be notarized electronically or by remote online**
13 **notarization in accordance with R.S. 35:5 or R.S. 35:621 et seq.**

14 Section 2. R.S. 32:707.2(G) is hereby repealed in its entirety.

15 Section 3. The provisions of this Act establishing or requiring the use of electronic
16 lien and title services, electronic registration and titling, secure digital motor vehicle titles,
17 or other electronic titling and registration transactions shall not become effective until the
18 Department of Public Safety and Corrections, office of motor vehicles, certifies that a fully
19 operational statewide electronic lien, electronic titling, and electronic registration system has
20 been implemented.

21 Section 4. The provisions of R.S. 32:705(B)(6) and (7) and R.S. 32:707.2.1 shall
22 become effective on January 1, 2028, or when the Department of Public Safety and
23 Corrections, office of motor vehicles, electronic vehicle and registration system is updated
24 to comply with the statutory provisions contained in this Act, whichever occurs first.
25 Nothing in this Section shall be construed to invalidate or limit any electronic record,
26 electronic signature, or electronic transaction otherwise authorized by law or by policy of
27 the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, office of motor vehicles, prior to the
28 effective date of this Section.

29 Section 5. All other provisions shall become effective upon signature by the governor

1 or, if not signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without
 2 signature by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of
 3 Louisiana. If vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act
 4 shall become effective on the day following such approval.

5 Section 6. If any provision of this Act, or the application thereof, is held invalid, such
 6 invalidity shall not affect other provisions, items, or applications of the Act which can be
 7 given effect without the invalid provision, item, or application and to this end the provisions
 8 of this Act are hereby declared severable.

9 Section 7. The Louisiana State Law Institute is hereby authorized and directed to
 10 arrange in alphabetical order and renumber the definitions provided in R.S. 32:702.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Senate Legislative Services. The keyword, summary, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

DIGEST

SB 72 Reengrossed

2026 Regular Session

Hodges

Present law (R.S. 32:702) provides for definitions. Proposed law defines "certificate of title" and meanings for "endorsement".

Present law provides by January 1, 2010 the department would develop and implement on a statewide basis a computer system which will permit the electronic recording of information concerning liens without submitting or receiving paper title documents. Proposed law retains present law and removes provision for the submission of paper documents.

Proposed law further provides for the system to enable the ability to transact, process, record, and transmit certificates of title through a completely electronic process for all business entities and their service providers applying for automotive titles and registrations, for itself or the customers.

Proposed law provides subsequent lien satisfactions will be electronically transmitted to the department and will include the name and address of the person satisfying the lien. Proposed law further provides a certificate of title shall not be issued until the last lien is satisfied and there is a clear certificate of title that can be issued to the owner of the vehicle.

Proposed law provides the department is not obligated to print a paper title until the final lien is satisfied, except where specifically requested by a dealer or financial institution to fulfill its business requirements.

Proposed law further provides a certified copy of the office of motor vehicle's electronic record of the lien shall be admissible in any civil, criminal, or administrative proceeding in this state as evidence of the existence of a lien.

Proposed law provides that the legal effect or enforceability of a document cannot be disputed solely due to its electronic form.

Proposed law provides for notaries who do not reside in Louisiana.

Proposed law requires any document unless otherwise exempted will be by electronic form.

Proposed law provides any electronic signature or electronic record accepted by the department will have the same force and effect as an original written document or handwritten signature and will satisfy any legal requirement for a written record or signature.

Proposed law provides a dealer or authorized officer will be immune from civil liability arising solely from the use of electronic signatures, remote notarization of powers of attorney or electronic records, including claims alleging improper execution, authentication, or transmission, provided the dealer complied with the requirements of this Section and any rules promulgated by the department.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 32:707.2(A), (C)(1) and (2), and (D); adds R.S. 32:702(18), 705(B)(6) and (7), 707.2(I) and (J), 707.2.1, 707.2.2, and 714; repeals R.S. 32:707.2(G))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Senate Floor Amendments to engrossed bill

1. Makes technical changes.
2. Defines "certificate of title".
3. Provides for system requirements for electronic lien recordation, registration and titling fees.
4. Adds provisions for obtaining certificate of title.
5. Provides for requirements for receiving electronic information.
6. Changes number of transactions from 250 to 25 for institutions designating a public tag agent relative to transmitting a release of satisfaction of lien.
7. Provides for requirements for lienholders processing electronic liens.
8. Provides documentation in connection with the sale, lease, transfer, titling, registration, or financing of a motor vehicle.
9. Provides for requirements for electronic systems.
10. Provides promulgation of rules.