
DIGEST

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HB 781 Engrossed

2026 Regular Session

Bourriaque

Abstract: Establishes a fleet registration program created by the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, office of motor vehicles.

Present law (R.S. 47:508(A)(2)) requires that every automobile or truck registration to be used as a commercial rental or leased vehicle expire one year from the date of issues and be renewed annually.

Proposed law retains present law but provides for an exemption to vehicles registered under the fleet registration program established in proposed law. Further authorizes the vehicles to be enrolled under an annual or biennial fleet cycle administered by the Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections (DPS&C), office of motor vehicles (OMV), with proration for partial annual additions provided in the fleet registration program.

Proposed law (R.S. 47:508.1(A)) provides for the following definitions:

- (1) "Director" defined as the assistant secretary of the DPS&C, OMV.
- (2) "Fleet" defined as a group of motor vehicles owned or leased and titled in the name of a single registered fleet owner, consisting of 10 or more vehicles required to be registered under present law.
- (3) "Registered fleet owner" defined as an entity approved by the OMV under proposed law to register vehicles as a fleet. Specifies the term includes a leasing or rental company defined in present law.

Proposed law (R.S. 47:508.1(B)) specifies that for the renewal periods provided in proposed law, the director must establish a system for the registration of all fleet vehicles owned or purchased by a registered fleet owner pursuant to proposed law. Further requires the director establish forms and procedures for initial fleet registration and for periodic updates.

Proposed law (R.S. 47:508.1(C)) specifies that any owner of 10 or more motor vehicles that is required to be registered under present law and proposed law may apply to be a registered fleet owner. Specifies that upon approval, the director must issue a unique fleet identification number to the registered fleet owner. Further authorizes the director to deny, suspend, or revoke fleet status for noncompliance with proposed law, including failure to maintain security, failure to remit fees or taxes, the misuse of plates, failure to provide records, or any other rules adopted by the director

pursuant to proposed law.

Proposed law (R.S. 47:508.1(D)) authorizes a registered fleet owner to elect to register its fleet on an annual or biennial basis in lieu of the standard cycles under. Further requires that fees for vehicles added after the cycle begins be prorated on a quarterly basis using fractions of 3/4 of the annual fee for vehicles licensed between July 1st and Sept. 30th, 1/2 of the annual fee for vehicles licensed between Oct. 1st and Dec. 31st, and 1/4 of the annual fee for vehicles licensed on or after Jan. 1st. Requires an additional full annual fee be added to the partial annual prorated fee when a biennial registration is sought to add vehicles mid-cycle.

Proposed law (R.S. 47:508.1(E)) requires that vehicles subject to La. safety inspection requirements comply prior to issuance or renewal as applicable. Further requires that for rental or leased fleet vehicles, a valid inspection sticker or inspection certification remain effective for the duration of the rental or lease term. Additionally requires that reinspection or issuance of a new brake tag not be required during that period. Additionally specifies that the director may authorize electronic proof of inspection in fleet application.

Proposed law (R.S. 47:508.1(F)) requires a registered fleet owner maintain proof of financial responsibility meeting the Motor Vehicle Safety Responsibility Law. Requires that the rental companies allocation of primary and secondary coverage be as provided in present law, and the definitions applicable to vehicle rental insurers be as provided in present law.

Proposed law (R.S. 47:508.1(G)) authorizes the director to issue a unique fleet license plate or validation device for vehicles in a registered fleet. Further allows registration plates to be transferred among vehicles within the fleet subject to reporting and audit controls. Further requires that unassigned plate inventory be secured and reconciled in accordance with the rules adopted by the director.

Proposed law (R.S. 47:508.1(H)) requires that automobiles, vans, and sport utility vehicles used as commercial rental or daily leased vehicles be issued plates in accordance with the DPS&C, OMV, policies or rules governing commercial plate classifications, including any successor classifications.

Proposed law (R.S. 47:508.1(I)) requires the director provide technical specifications for secure electronic data exchange to support daily or periodic fleet registration updates, title submissions, and plate transfers. Further requires that registered fleet owners retain records for at least five years and maintain the records for audit.

Proposed law (R.S. 47:508.1(J)) requires that all license taxes and registration fees be computed under present law and applicable plate-class schedules. Further provides that the director may authorize consolidated monthly remittance and reconciliation of fees and taxes for registered fleet owners.

Proposed law (R.S. 47:508.1(K)) authorizes the DPS&C, OMV, to adopt rules in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act to implement proposed law and must coordinate with the division of administration, the Dept. of Revenue, and the La. Public Service Commission with respect to

regulated carriers, as applicable.

Effective on Jan. 1, 2028, or when the DPS&C, OMV, electronic vehicle and registration system is updated to comply with the statutory provisions contained in proposed law, whichever occurs first.

(Amends R.S. 47:508(A)(2); Adds R.S. 47:508.1)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works to the original bill:

1. Change the effective date of proposed law from January 1, 2027, to January 1, 2028 or when the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, office of motor vehicles, electronic vehicle and registration system is updated to comply with the statutory provisions contained in this proposed law, whichever occurs first.