

New law provides definitions for "water-damaged vehicle" and "certificate of destruction".

Prior law required disclosure by persons who transfer ownership of vehicles with salvage or reconstructed titles.

New law retains prior law and provides that a disclosure shall be required by persons who transfer ownership of vehicles that were issued certificates of destruction.

New law provides that whoever knowingly violates the provisions of new law with regards to disclosure of salvage titles, certificates of destruction, or a reconstructed title shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be punished by imprisonment of not more than six months or by a fine of not less than \$500 nor more than \$5,000, or both. New law provides for mandatory 80 hours of community service for violations.

New law provides that an application for a certificate of title, other than a certificate of destruction, shall be denied with respect to vehicles previously titled outside the state if the vehicle is water damaged as provided in new law.

New law provides that an insurance company that acquires ownership of a water-damaged vehicle pursuant to a settlement shall apply for the certificate of destruction within 30 days of the settlement.

New law provides that the Department of Public Safety and Corrections may by rule extend the 30 day application period.

New law provides that each application for a certificate of destruction shall be accompanied by the fee required for an original certificate of title.

New law provides that upon receiving an application for a certificate of destruction, the office of motor vehicles shall issue a certificate of destruction that is conspicuously labeled with such designation and that contains the same information as other certificates of title.

New law provides that no motor vehicle for which a certificate of destruction has been issued shall be later issued a salvage or reconstructed title or otherwise titled or registered by the office of motor vehicles for use on the roads or highways of this state.

New law provides that no motor vehicle which has been issued a certificate of destruction shall be resold as a retail unit, and such vehicle shall be dismantled, sold for any usable parts, or crushed.

New law provides that notwithstanding existing law to the contrary, a person who purchases or acquires a vehicle for which a certificate of destruction has been issued shall not be required to apply for or acquire a permit to dismantle. New law provides that the certificate of destruction itself shall be sufficient for the vehicle to be dismantled, crushed, or scrapped.

New law provides that after the water-damaged vehicle has been crushed or scrapped, the owner shall surrender the certificate of destruction to the office of motor vehicles with the word recycled written or stamped across its face, and no certificate of title of any type shall be issued again for such vehicle.

New law provides that the Department of Public Safety and Corrections may adopt rules and regulations necessary to carry out the provisions of new law.

New law provides that whoever violates any provision of new law shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall for each offense be punished by imprisonment of not more than six months or by fine not less than \$500 nor more than \$5,000, or both.

Effective upon signature of governor (December 6, 2005).

(Amends R.S. 32:706.1 and 707(E); Adds R.S. 32:702(14) and (15) and 707.3)