



H.B. 551

124th General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Reps. Boccieri, Hagan, Krupinski, Britton, Allen, Key

BILL SUMMARY

- Subjects trailers and semitrailers to motor vehicle certificate of title requirements, irrespective of the weight of the trailer or semitrailer.
- Repeals the requirement to present evidence or an affidavit of the weight of trailers weighing 4,000 pounds or less and used exclusively for noncommercial purposes upon registration.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

In general, a certificate of title is used to evidence motor vehicle ownership. A certificate of title is required to transfer the ownership of a motor vehicle and generally must be presented to the Registrar of Motor Vehicles or a deputy registrar the first time that a motor vehicle is registered in a new owner's name (secs. 4505.03 and 4503.10, not in the bill). Existing law exempts trailers and semitrailers whose weight is 4,000 pounds or less from the certificate of title requirements by expressly including only those trailers and semitrailers whose weight exceeds 4,000 pounds in the governing definition of a "motor vehicle" (sec. 4505.01(A)(2)). The bill eliminates the trailer and semitrailer weight restriction from the definition of "motor vehicle" thereby subjecting trailers and semitrailers to the certificate of title requirements irrespective of the weight of these vehicles. (See **COMMENT 1**.)

Additionally, under current law, the first time that the original owner of a trailer weighing 4,000 pounds or less and used exclusively for noncommercial purposes registers the trailer, the owner must present evidence to the Registrar of Motor Vehicles of the vehicle's weight (see **COMMENT 2**). Subsequent registration applications must be accompanied by an affidavit from the owner of the trailer stating that the vehicle's weight is the same as at the time of the original owner's initial registration. The bill repeals this requirement to present evidence

or an affidavit of the weight of these vehicles upon registration. (Sec. 4503.041, repealed.)

COMMENT

1. This definition of "motor vehicle" and the changes effected by the bill also apply to Chapter 4503. of the Revised Code, governing motor vehicle registration (license plate) requirements (sec. 4503.01, not in the bill).

2. Revised Code section 4503.04(F) establishes the registration rates for noncommercial trailers (which can weigh no more than 3,000 pounds and must be used exclusively for purposes other than engaging in business for profit under R.C. 4501.01(N)) based on the weight of the vehicle fully equipped and division (J) of that section establishes a minimum tax for noncommercial trailers of \$5. Trailers other than noncommercial trailers are taxed at a flat rate of \$25, irrespective of the trailer's weight (sec. 4503.042(D), not in the bill).

HISTORY

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