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H.B. 97
134th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Cross and Plummer

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SUMMARY

- Replaces the annual \$25 registration tax for commercial trailers and semitrailers with a one-time \$50 registration tax.
- Makes conforming changes for the multi-year and permanent registration options for commercial trailers and semitrailers.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Commercial trailer and semitrailer registration

Under current law, the owner or lessee of a commercial trailer or semitrailer may register that trailer or semitrailer annually, for multiple years (up to eight years), or permanently. For an annual registration, the owner or lessee pays all of the following taxes and fees:

1. The annual registration tax of \$25;
2. The annual additional Bureau of Motor Vehicles fee of \$11;
3. Any annual local motor vehicle taxes (ranging between \$0 to \$30);
4. The deputy registrar/BMV service fee of \$5.¹

For a multi-year registration, the registrant must pay all annual taxes and fees (1 to 3 above) for each year of registration, plus the \$5 service fee. For permanent registration, the registrant must pay eight times those taxes and fees, plus the \$5 service fee.

¹ R.C. 4503.038, 4503.042(C), 4503.10(C)(1), and Chapter 4504.

The bill changes the annual registration tax (1 above) of \$25, to a one-time registration tax of \$50 for the first year of registration. After a registrant pays the \$50 registration tax the first year, the registrant will only pay the additional BMV fee and any local taxes for each subsequent year of registration, plus the \$5 service fee.² The following table shows a cost comparison between current law and the bill for the total cost of an annual commercial trailer or semitrailer registration (assuming no local motor vehicle registration tax is levied).

Cost comparison for annual registration		
Year of Registration	Under current law	Under the bill
First year of registration	\$41	\$66
Each subsequent year of registration	\$41	\$16

The bill also makes conforming changes to the multi-year and permanent registration options for commercial trailers and semitrailers to reflect the change in the annual registration tax.³

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	02-09-21

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² R.C. 4503.042(C).

³ R.C. 4503.103(A)(2)(a).