

HB 661 -- OPERATION OF A COMMERCIAL VEHICLE (Ruth)

COMMITTEE OF ORIGIN: Standing Committee on Transportation

This bill requires the Department of Revenue to establish a system in which persons who own multiple farm vehicles can elect to have the vehicles placed on the same registration renewal schedule.

All farm vehicles included in the fleet of a registered farm vehicle fleet owner shall be registered during April or on a prorated basis, as specified in the bill. The bill allows the owner of a farm vehicle fleet to add a farm vehicle or transfer plates to a fleet vehicle. The owner must pay a transfer fee of \$2 for each vehicle transferred.

Farm vehicles registered under this provision shall be issued a special license plate with the phrase "Farm Fleet Vehicle" and be issued multiyear license plates that do not require a renewal tab. The Director of Revenue shall issue a registration certificate or other proof of payment of the annual or biennial fee that must be carried in the vehicle for which it is issued.

This bill disqualifies any person from driving a commercial motor vehicle for life if they are convicted of using a commercial motor vehicle in the commission of a felony involving severe forms of trafficking in persons.

The bill also changes various laws in which a motor vehicle odometer reading certification is or is not required.

Currently, the first time a certificate of ownership is sought for a vehicle that is at least seven years old at the time of application and the value of which is less than \$3,000, the certificate may be issued if the application is accompanied by certain documents, including an odometer reading certification if the vehicle is less than 10 years old. The bill changes the requirement for the odometer reading certification from 10 to 20 years old.

Motor vehicle dealers are required to make a monthly report to the Department of Revenue regarding vehicles or trailers sold, taxes collected, etc., which includes an odometer reading for vehicles that are less than 10 years old. This bill changes this provision to require an odometer reading for any vehicle that is less than 20 years old.

The crime of odometer fraud in the third degree is changed to occur upon the operation of a motor vehicle less than 20 years old, increased from 10 years old.

The provisions of Sections 407.511 to 407.556, RSMo, regarding odometer fraud, currently do not apply to a motor vehicle that is 10 or more years old. The bill now limits that exception to motor vehicles that are 20 or more years old.