HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: PCS for HB 915 Commercial Motor Vehicle Registration
SPONSOR(S): Tourism, Infrastructure & Energy Subcommittee
TIED BILLS: **IDEN./SIM. BILLS:** SB 1582

REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR or BUDGET/POLICY CHIEF
Orig. Comm.: Tourism, Infrastructure & Energy Subcommittee		Johnson	Keating

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

Under current law, each commercial motor vehicle (CMV) registered under the International Registration Plan (IRP) must pay a $28 fee annually for a new license plate along with a cab card denoting its declared vehicle weight.

Effective January 1, 2024, the bill requires vehicles registered under the IRP to be issued a license plate for a three-year period. At the end of the three-year period, the plate must be replaced upon renewal. Each license plate must include a validation sticker reflecting the month that the plate expires. Under the bill, an annually issued cab card, including payment of a $28 annual fee, is still required. The bill provides that the $28 annual fee must be deposited into the Highway Safety Operating Trust Fund and authorizes the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV) to replace a damaged or worn license plate at no cost to an applicant surrendering the current license plate.

The bill does not appear to impact state government revenues but may have an indeterminate positive impact to DHSMV due to a reduced cost in printing license plates for CMVs. The bill does not appear to have a fiscal impact to local governments.

The bill has an effective date of July 1, 2022.

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

Current Situation

The International Registration Plan (IRP) is a reciprocity agreement among states of the United States, the District of Columbia and provinces of Canada which recognizes the registration of commercial motor vehicles (CMVs) [1] registered by other jurisdictions. The plan provides for payment of apportioned licensing fees based on the total distance operated in all member jurisdictions.[2]

Current law requires the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV), upon receipt of an application and payment of the appropriate fees, to issue to a vehicle owner or lessee a certificate of registration and a license plate.[3] License plates are issued for a ten-year period and must be replaced upon renewal at the end of the ten-year period. The fee for license plate replacement is $28, $2.80 of which is paid each year before the plate is replaced, and such fees must be deposited into the Highway Safety Operating Trust Fund. A validation sticker must also be issued, reflecting the owner's birth month, license plate number, and the year of expiration, or the appropriate renewal period if the owner is not a natural person.[4]

CMVs registered in accordance with the IRP,[5] known as "apportioned vehicles,"[6] are issued an *annual* license plate, as well as a cab card denoting the declared gross vehicle weight for each apportioned jurisdiction in which the vehicle is authorized to operate.[7] The $28 license plate replacement fee is paid annually upon initial registration and subsequent renewal and includes issuance of a cab card.

Effect of the Bill

The bill removes the requirement that vehicles registered under the IRP must be issued an *annual* license plate and cab card effective December 31, 2023.

The bill provides that effective January 1, 2024, apportioned vehicles must be issued a license plate for a three-year period. The license plate must be replaced upon renewal at the end of the three-year period and, as under current law, each license plate must include a validation sticker reflecting the month that the license plate expires.

Under the bill, an annually issued cab card, including payment of a $28 annual fee, is still required. The $28 fee must be deposited into Highway Safety Operating Trust Fund.

Finally, the bill provides that if the license plate is damaged or worn, the license plate may be replaced at no charge by applying to DHSMV and surrendering the current license plate.

The bill has an effective date of July 1, 2022.

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[1] Section 320.01(25), F.S., defines the term "commercial motor vehicle' to mean any vehicle not owned or operated by a governmental entity, which uses special fuel or motor fuel on the public highways, and which has a gross vehicle weight of 26,001 pounds o r more, or has three or more axles regardless of weight, or is used in combination when the weight of such combination exceeds 26,001 pounds gross vehicle weight.

[2] International Registration Plan, Inc., *Welcome to IRP, Inc.* https://www.irponline.org/ (last visited Nov. 3, 2021).

[3] Section 320.06(1)(a), F.S. *See* s. 320.0706, F.S., for license plate display requirements for commercial trucks with a gross vehicle weight of 26,001 pounds or more, and for dump trucks and truck tractors.

[4] Section 320.06(1)(b), F.S.

[5] Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, *Commercial Motor Vehicle Drivers*, *International Registration Plan*, available at https://www.flhsmv.gov/driver-licenses-id-cards/commercial-motor-vehicle-drivers/international-registration-plan/ (last visited Jan 28, 2022).

[6] Section 320.0715(1), F.S., requires all apportionable vehicles domiciled in this state to be registered in accordance with the International Registration Plan and to display license plates.

[7] S. 316.06(1)(b), F.S.

B. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1 Amends s. 320.06, F.S., relating to registration certificates, license plates, and validation stickers generally.

Section 2 Provides an effective date.

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

   None.

2. Expenditures:

   Indeterminate. DHSMV will likely see a reduction in expenditures associated with a reduced cost in printing CMV license plates.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

   None.

2. Expenditures:

   None.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

CMV owners with vehicles registered under the International Registration Plan may see a reduction in costs associated with only having to replace the license plate on each vehicle once every three years instead of annually.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

None.

III. COMMENTS

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

   Not applicable. This bill does not appear to impact county or municipal governments.

2. Other:

   None

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

This bill does not require or authorize rulemaking.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

None

IV. AMENDMENTS/COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES

Not applicable.