

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.

1 State of Arkansas
2 87th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2009
4

As Engrossed: S1/28/09 S2/3/09

A Bill

SENATE BILL 20

5 By: Senators Altes, Teague, D. Wyatt
6 By: Representatives Cole, Moore
7
8

For An Act To Be Entitled

9
10 *AN ACT TO PROVIDE OPTIONS FOR THE AGRICULTURE*
11 *INDUSTRY TO USE MORE FUEL-EFFICIENT VEHICLES TO*
12 *REDUCE COSTS; TO ALLOW MINI-TRUCKS TO BE*
13 *REGISTERED AND LICENSED; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.*

Subtitle

14
15 *TO PROVIDE OPTIONS FOR THE AGRICULTURE*
16 *INDUSTRY TO USE MORE FUEL-EFFICIENT*
17 *VEHICLES TO REDUCE COSTS.*
18
19

20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
21

22 *SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 27-14-601(a)(3)(H), regarding the fees for*
23 *registration and licensing of Class Eight motor vehicles, is amended to read*
24 *as follows:*

25 *(H) Class Eight.*

26 *(i) In order to aid in the development of the*
27 *natural resources and to promote agriculture, timber harvesting, and forestry*
28 *in Arkansas and in order to eliminate apparent inequities in license charges*
29 *for vehicles using only improved roads and those used primarily on the farm,*
30 *for timber harvesting or forestry, in the wooded areas, and off the main*
31 *highway system of this state, a special classification is created to provide*
32 *a different and more equitable rate for those vehicles used exclusively for*
33 *the noncommercial hauling of farm or timber products produced in this state*
34 *and for the noncommercial hauling of feed, seed, fertilizer, poultry litter,*
35 *and for the noncommercial hauling of other products commonly produced or used*
36 *in agricultural operations or the noncommercial hauling of animal feed by*



1 owners of livestock or poultry for consumption in this state by livestock or
2 poultry owned by them and for those vehicles used in the noncommercial
3 hauling of unfinished and unprocessed forest products and clay minerals and
4 ores originating in Arkansas from the point of severance to a point in the
5 state at which they first undergo any processing, preparation for processing,
6 conversion, or transformation from their natural or severed state.

7 Notwithstanding any provision of this subdivision (a)(3)(H) to the contrary,
8 farmers may transport cotton seed from the gin or warehouse to the first
9 point of sale under this special classification. Rock or stone or crushed
10 rock or crushed stone, except rock or stone which is to undergo further
11 processing into a finished or semifinished product other than crushed rock or
12 crushed stone, shall not be construed as "clay minerals" or "ores" under the
13 provisions of this classification. Notwithstanding any provision of this
14 subdivision (a)(3)(H) or any other law to the contrary, persons in the timber
15 harvesting or forestry industries who transport wood waste, wood chips, or
16 wood dust from a mill or a temporary location may transport the wood waste,
17 wood chips, or wood dust from the mill or the temporary location to a
18 destination for further processing under this special classification.

19 (ii) The annual license fees for vehicles classified
20 as either farm or natural resources vehicles shall be as follows:

21 (a) For a vehicle with two (2) axles,
22 including mini-trucks, a fee of three dollars and ninety cents (\$3.90) per
23 one thousand pounds (1,000 lbs.) of gross loaded weight of the vehicle, with
24 a minimum fee of thirty-two dollars and fifty cents (\$32.50) and a maximum
25 fee of sixty-five dollars (\$65.00) for each vehicle;

26 (b) For a vehicle with three (3) axles, a fee
27 of ninety-seven dollars and fifty cents (\$97.50);

28 (c) For a vehicle with four (4) axles, a fee
29 of one hundred thirty dollars (\$130);

30 (d) For a vehicle with five (5) axles, a fee
31 of one hundred sixty-two dollars and fifty cents (\$162.50);

32 (e) For a vehicle with five (5) axles used
33 exclusively by the owner of livestock or poultry in hauling animal feed for
34 consumption in this state by the owner's livestock or poultry, a fee of six
35 hundred fifty dollars (\$650); and

36 (f) Notwithstanding any of the provisions of

1 *this subdivision (a)(3)(H) to the contrary, for a vehicle to be operated*
2 *separately or in combination with other vehicles, which vehicle or*
3 *combination has a total outside width in excess of one hundred two inches*
4 *(102") but not exceeding one hundred eight inches (108") and is utilized or*
5 *intended to be utilized to transport compacted seed cotton, the annual*
6 *license fee shall be six hundred fifty dollars (\$650). Provided, any full*
7 *trailer or semitrailer used in combination with such registered vehicle shall*
8 *also be registered in accordance with and pursuant to the applicable fees set*
9 *out in subdivision (a)(3)(I) of this section. That portion of the annual*
10 *license fee established by this subdivision (a)(3)(H)(ii)(f) which equals*
11 *four hundred eighty-seven dollars and fifty cents (\$487.50) is declared to be*
12 *a permit fee for the use of the public roads and streets of this state by*
13 *such vehicles while operated separately or in combination with other vehicles*
14 *due to the unusual design and size of such vehicles or combinations of*
15 *vehicles.*

16 *(iii)(a) The foregoing vehicles shall not exceed the*
17 *maximum axle load permitted by law.*

18 *(b) Five-axle vehicles may haul maximum gross*
19 *loaded weights of up to eighty thousand pounds (80,000 lbs.) without the*
20 *purchase of any additional or different type license.*

21 *(iv) The Director of the Department of Finance and*
22 *Administration shall cause to be issued special and distinctive license*
23 *plates for vehicles in this classification, with separate farm license plates*
24 *to be established for those vehicles used in the noncommercial hauling of*
25 *farm products produced in this state, ~~and for hauling~~ feed, seed, fertilizer,*
26 *poultry litter, and for the noncommercial hauling of other products commonly*
27 *produced or used in agricultural operations or compacted seed cotton and*
28 *separate natural resources license plates to be established for those*
29 *vehicles hauling timber products, clay minerals, or ores.*

30 *(v)(a) Before any license may be issued for a*
31 *vehicle designated ~~a~~ as either a farm vehicle or a natural resources vehicle,*
32 *the applicant shall, by affidavit, state that he or she is familiar with the*
33 *purposes for which such licenses may be used as authorized under this*
34 *classification and that he or she will not use such vehicle for which*
35 *application for license is made for any purpose not authorized under this*
36 *classification. The applicant shall indicate on his or her affidavit whether*

1 the vehicle is to be used for the hauling of farm products, animal feed,
2 compacted seed, ~~or cotton,~~ or for the hauling of forest products, clay
3 minerals, or ores.

4 (b) If the applicant is the owner of a mini-
5 truck, then the affidavit shall state that the vehicle is being used
6 exclusively for farm purposes and that the mini-truck meets the other
7 requirements of § 27-14-726.

8 (vi)(a) Upon submitting an affidavit, any person
9 entitled to obtain a ~~natural resources~~ farm license for a motor vehicle used
10 for hauling farm products as authorized under this classification, if the
11 vehicle is required for only seasonal or occasional use, may be issued a
12 ~~natural resources~~ farm license for the vehicle for the first six (6) months
13 of the annual licensing period, at a rate equal to one-half ($\frac{1}{2}$) of the annual
14 fee but in no event less than sixty-five dollars (\$65.00) or for the last
15 month of the current annual licensing period and the first six (6) months of
16 the subsequent annual licensing period at a rate equal to seven-twelfths
17 ($\frac{7}{12}$) of the annual fee but in no event less than seventy-five dollars
18 (\$75.00).

19 (b) The director shall issue special
20 distinctive license plates or license plate validation decals for the
21 vehicles, including the indication thereon of the expiration date, so as to
22 identify them from annual ~~natural resources~~ plates.

23 (vii) The owner of any motor vehicle who is entitled
24 to obtain a ~~natural resources~~ farm license for such motor vehicle for use in
25 hauling farm products as authorized in this subdivision (a)(3)(H) may use
26 such motor vehicle for the hauling of baled cotton from the cotton gin to a
27 cotton compress without the necessity of the payment of additional license
28 fees or the obtaining of additional license plates for such motor vehicle.

29 (viii) The director shall promulgate such rules and
30 regulations as may be necessary to carry out the intent of this
31 classification and prevent abuse thereof. However, before any such rules or
32 regulations shall be effective, they shall be approved by majority action of
33 the members of the State Highway Commission acting for and in behalf of the
34 Arkansas Highway Police Division of the Arkansas State Highway and
35 Transportation Department, which is the agency charged with the principal
36 responsibility of enforcing the motor vehicle license laws of this state.

1 (ix) Vehicles licensed under this classification for
2 the hauling of farm products only shall be permitted, without payment of
3 additional fees, to transport return loads to the farm or domicile of the
4 owner of such vehicles where such return load contents are the property of,
5 and to be used or consumed by, the owner of the vehicle or his family.

6 (x) If a violation of the natural resources
7 classification, as authorized in this subdivision (a)(3)(H) is discovered, a
8 license must immediately be purchased for such vehicle in accordance with the
9 rate of license that should lawfully be required for such vehicle for so
10 moving on the roads and highways of this state. No credit shall be given on
11 the purchase price of such license for any amount or amounts paid for license
12 hitherto purchased for use on such vehicle. This requirement of license
13 purchase shall not be in lieu of any criminal prosecution.

14 (xi) All affidavits required under the provisions of
15 this subdivision (a)(3)(H) shall be acknowledged by the director, his or her
16 authorized agent, or some other person authorized by the laws of this state
17 to administer oaths;

18 (xii) The owner of a mini-truck under § 27-14-726
19 may license and register the mini-truck as a Class Eight farm vehicle if the
20 vehicle is used for farm purposes.

21
22 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 27-14-705(b)(2)(B), regarding the
23 application for registration and certificate of title, is amended to read as
24 follows:

25 (B)(i) ~~The~~ Except as provided under § 27-14-726, the
26 certificate of origin shall be furnished to the dealer by the manufacturer
27 and shall accompany the application for license and title.

28 (ii) ~~No~~ Except as provided under § 27-14-726, no
29 license for the operation of the vehicle shall be granted and no certificate
30 of title shall be issued unless the certificate of origin is made a part of
31 the application.

32
33 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code Title 27, Chapter 14, Subchapter 7 is amended
34 to add an additional section to read as follows:

35 27-14-726. Mini-trucks.

36 (a) As used in this section:

1 (1) "Low pressure tire" means a pneumatic tire six inches (6")
2 or more in width designed for use on a wheel with a rim diameter of twelve
3 inches (12") or less and utilizing an operating pressure of ten pounds per
4 square inch (10 p.s.i.) or less as recommended by the vehicle manufacturer;

5 (2)(A) "Mini-truck" means a motor vehicle that is:

6 (i) At least forty-eight inches (48") in width;

7 (ii) Not more than one hundred thirty-five inches
8 (135") in length including the bumper;

9 (iii) At least one thousand five hundred pounds
10 (1,500 lbs.) in unladen weight including fuel and fluids;

11 (iv) Equipped with:

12 (a) Four (4) or more low pressure tires or
13 pneumatic rubber tires that are used on motor vehicles;

14 (b) A steering wheel;

15 (c) Seating for at least two (2) people to sit
16 side-by-side in the front seating area;

17 (d) A fully-enclosed metal or metal-reinforced
18 cab with glass and mirrors and complies with § 27-37-301 – 27-37-305
19 regarding safety glass and mirrors;

20 (e) Metal doors with functioning handle locks
21 that are similar to the handle locks on motor vehicles;

22 (f) Head lamps as required under § 27-36-209;

23 (g) Tail lamps as required under § 27-36-215;

24 (h) Signal lamps as provided under § 27-36-
25 216;

26 (i) A working horn as required under § 27-37-
27 202(a);

28 (j) Seat belts as provided under §§ 27-37-701
29 et seq.; and

30 (k) Front and rear bumpers.

31 (B) A mini-truck may be equipped with a bed or cargo box
32 for hauling materials.

33 (C) A mini-truck is not an all-terrain vehicle under § 27-
34 20-201 – 27-20-208 and §§ 27-21-101 – 27-21-109.

35 (b)(1) The owner of a mini-truck may register and license it as a
36 Class Eight farm vehicle under § 27-14-601(a)(3)(H).

