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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 1509 Session of  
2019

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INTRODUCED BY JOZWIAK, HARKINS, TOOHL, KNOWLES, BERNSTINE,  
HELM, NEILSON, LAWRENCE, DELOZIER, NELSON, T. DAVIS, GILLEN,  
MACKENZIE, WALSH, STRUZZI AND DAY, MAY 23, 2019

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION, MAY 23, 2019

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AN ACT

1 Amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated  
2 Statutes, in general provisions, further providing for  
3 definitions; in registration of vehicles, further providing  
4 for registration and certificate of title required, for  
5 vehicles exempt from registration, for period of  
6 registration, for duties of agents and for display of  
7 registration plate; in inspection of vehicles, further  
8 providing for operation of vehicle without official  
9 certificate of inspection, for prohibition on expenditures  
10 for emission inspection program, for issuance of certificate  
11 of inspection and for display of certificate of inspection  
12 and repealing provisions relating to removal of certificate  
13 of inspection; and, in vehicle theft and related provisions,  
14 further providing for altered, forged or counterfeit  
15 documents and plates.

16 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
17 hereby enacts as follows:

18 Section 1. The definition of "abandoned vehicle" in section  
19 102 of Title 75 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes is  
20 amended to read:

21 § 102. Definitions.

22 Subject to additional definitions contained in subsequent  
23 provisions of this title which are applicable to specific  
24 provisions of this title, the following words and phrases when

1 used in this title shall have, unless the context clearly  
2 indicates otherwise, the meanings given to them in this section:

3 "Abandoned vehicle."

4 (1) A vehicle (other than a pedalcycle) shall be  
5 presumed to be abandoned under any of the following  
6 circumstances, but the presumption is rebuttable by a  
7 preponderance of the evidence:

8 (i) The vehicle is physically inoperable and is left  
9 unattended on a highway or other public property for more  
10 than 48 hours.

11 (ii) The vehicle has remained illegally on a highway  
12 or other public property for a period of more than 48  
13 hours.

14 (iii) The vehicle is left unattended on or along a  
15 highway or other public property for more than 48 hours  
16 and does not bear all of the following:

17 (A) A valid registration plate.

18 (B) A current certificate of inspection or  
19 validating registration sticker.

20 (C) An ascertainable vehicle identification  
21 number.

22 (iv) The vehicle has remained on private property  
23 without the consent of the owner or person in control of  
24 the property for more than 24 hours.

25 (v) The vehicle has remained on the private property  
26 of a salvor for 20 days.

27 (2) Vehicles and equipment used or to be used in  
28 construction or in the operation or maintenance of highways  
29 or public utility facilities, which are left in a manner  
30 which does not interfere with the normal movement of traffic,

1 shall not be considered to be abandoned.

2 \* \* \*

3 Section 2. Section 1301 of Title 75 is amended by adding a  
4 subsection to read:

5 § 1301. Registration and certificate of title required.

6 \* \* \*

7 (b.1) Certificate of inspection prerequisite to  
8 registration.--No vehicle shall be registered unless a  
9 certificate of inspection has been issued if one is required by  
10 Chapter 47 (relating to inspection of vehicles).

11 \* \* \*

12 Section 3. Sections 1302(10)(i.3) and (i.4) and 1307(a) and  
13 (g) of Title 75 are amended to read:

14 § 1302. Vehicles exempt from registration.

15 The following types of vehicles are exempt from registration:

16 \* \* \*

17 (10) Any farm vehicle used exclusively upon a farm or  
18 farms owned or operated by the owner of the vehicle, subject  
19 to the following:

20 \* \* \*

21 (i.3) Type C--Such a farm vehicle which does qualify  
22 as a motor carrier vehicle and which [does not display]  
23 has not been issued a currently valid certificate of  
24 inspection may be driven upon highways only from sunrise  
25 to sunset and between:

26 (A) Parts of one such farm.

27 (B) Such farms located not more than ten miles  
28 apart.

29 (C) Such farm or farms and a place of business  
30 located within a radius of ten miles from such farm

1 or farms for the purpose of buying or selling  
2 agricultural commodities or supplies.

3 (D) Such farm or farms and a place of business  
4 located within a radius of 25 miles from such farm or  
5 farms for the purpose of repairing or servicing of  
6 the farm vehicle or the trailer or semitrailer being  
7 towed or hauled by the farm vehicle.

8 (i.4) Type D--Such a farm vehicle which does qualify  
9 as a motor carrier vehicle and [displays] has been issued  
10 a currently valid certificate of inspection may be driven  
11 without any restriction as to time but may only be driven  
12 on highways between:

13 (A) Parts of one such farm.

14 (B) Such farms located not more than 50 miles  
15 apart.

16 (C) Such farm or farms and a place of business  
17 located within a radius of 50 miles from such farm or  
18 farms for the purpose of buying or selling  
19 agricultural commodities or supplies or for repairing  
20 or servicing of the farm vehicle or the trailer or  
21 semitrailer being towed or hauled by the farm  
22 vehicle.

23 \* \* \*

24 § 1307. Period of registration.

25 (a) Staggered renewal system to be established.--The  
26 department shall establish a system of staggered registration  
27 renewal in a manner that an approximately equal number of  
28 registrations will expire every month throughout the year. This  
29 system shall be coordinated with the periodic inspection of all  
30 vehicles that are subject to annual inspection except those

1 vehicles bearing dealer registration plates. In order to  
2 implement and maintain the staggered registration system, the  
3 department may prorate annual registration fees over  
4 registration periods of from 6 to 18 months.

5 \* \* \*

6 [(g) Election.--Upon application on a form prescribed by the  
7 department, the owner or lessee of a motor vehicle, except a  
8 motor vehicle registered under the International Registration  
9 Plan and a motor vehicle with a seasonal registration or a  
10 circus or carnival plate, may elect to pay an annual  
11 registration fee for a two-year period. The fee shall be two  
12 times the amount of the registration fee otherwise payable for  
13 the motor vehicle under this title.]

14 Section 4. Section 1318 of Title 75 is amended by adding a  
15 subsection to read:

16 § 1318. Duties of agents.

17 \* \* \*

18 (c.1) Verification of certificate of inspection.--An agent  
19 of the department who is authorized to issue on behalf of the  
20 department a vehicle registration renewal or temporary  
21 registration shall be required to verify that a certificate of  
22 inspection has been issued, if one is required by Chapter 47  
23 (relating to inspection of vehicles), prior to issuance of a  
24 registration renewal or temporary registration. Proof of  
25 issuance of a certificate of inspection shall be furnished by  
26 the owner of the vehicle by presenting a certificate of  
27 inspection issued for the vehicle.

28 \* \* \*

29 Section 5. Section 1332(d) of Title 75 is amended and the  
30 section is amended by adding a subsection to read:

1 § 1332. Display of registration plate.

2 \* \* \*

3 (d) Validating registration stickers.--[Validating  
4 registration stickers shall not be issued or required to be  
5 displayed.] The department shall issue a validating registration  
6 sticker upon renewal of a vehicle registration or, if the  
7 vehicle registered had a temporary registration, to indicate  
8 that registration has been completed and the temporary  
9 registration status terminated. A validating registration  
10 sticker shall be affixed to the registration plate of the  
11 vehicle for which it was issued in the space or indentation  
12 provided on the registration plate.

13 (e) Validity.--A renewed registration may not be considered  
14 validated for the new registration period until the appropriate  
15 validating registration sticker is affixed as provided by  
16 subsection (d). A temporary registration may not be considered  
17 validated for a succeeding registration period until the  
18 appropriate validating registration sticker has been affixed as  
19 provided in subsection (d).

20 Section 6. Section 4703(a), (c), (e) and (f) of Title 75 are  
21 amended to read:

22 § 4703. Operation of vehicle without official certificate of  
23 inspection.

24 (a) General rule.--Except as otherwise provided in this  
25 section, no motor vehicle required to bear current registration  
26 plates issued by this Commonwealth and no farm vehicle with a  
27 gross weight or gross vehicle weight rating of greater than  
28 17,000 pounds for which a Type D biennial certificate of  
29 exemption has been issued shall be driven and no trailer  
30 required to bear current registration plates issued by this

1 Commonwealth shall be moved on a highway and no mass transit  
2 vehicle shall be operated unless [the vehicle displays]:

3       (1) a currently valid certificate of inspection for the  
4 vehicle has been issued under this chapter[.]; and

5       (2) the vehicle displays a current validating  
6 registration sticker.

7       \* \* \*

8       (c) Inspection of vehicles reentering this Commonwealth.--  
9 Vehicles subject to registration and inspection in this  
10 Commonwealth which have been outside this Commonwealth  
11 continuously for 30 days or more and which, at the time of  
12 reentering this Commonwealth, do not bear a currently valid  
13 certificate of inspection or current validating registration  
14 sticker shall not be required to be inspected until ten days  
15 after reentering this Commonwealth.

16       \* \* \*

17       (e) [Display] Issuance of unauthorized certificate of  
18 inspection.--No certificate of inspection shall be [displayed]  
19 issued unless an official inspection has been made and the  
20 vehicle or mass transit vehicle is in conformance with the  
21 provisions of this chapter.

22       (f) Authority of police.--Any police officer may stop any  
23 motor vehicle, mass transit vehicle or trailer and require the  
24 owner or operator to display an official certificate of  
25 inspection or validating registration sticker for the vehicle  
26 being operated. A police officer may summarily remove an  
27 unauthorized, expired or unlawfully issued certificate of  
28 inspection or validating registration sticker from any vehicle  
29 or mass transit vehicle. For the purposes of administering the  
30 requirements of regulations promulgated by the department, a

1 qualified Commonwealth employee or an authorized department  
2 representative may remove an unauthorized, expired or unlawfully  
3 issued certificate of inspection or validating registration  
4 sticker from any vehicle.

5 \* \* \*

6 Section 7. Section 4706 of Title 75 is amended by adding a  
7 subsection to read:

8 § 4706. Prohibition on expenditures for emission inspection  
9 program.

10 \* \* \*

11 (d.1) Coordination with vehicle registration.--The periodic  
12 emission inspection shall be coordinated with the vehicle  
13 registration period.

14 \* \* \*

15 Section 8. Sections 4727(a) and (b) and 4728 of Title 75 are  
16 amended to read:

17 § 4727. Issuance of certificate of inspection.

18 [(a) Requirements prior to inspection.--No vehicle, except a  
19 vehicle held by a dealer or manufacturer for which titling is  
20 not required or a mass transit vehicle for which titling is not  
21 required, shall be inspected unless it is duly registered or  
22 titled in this Commonwealth or in any other jurisdiction. The  
23 certified inspection mechanic shall examine the registration  
24 card, title or other document as specified in department  
25 regulations in order to ascertain that the vehicle is registered  
26 or titled or that an application for title has been submitted by  
27 the vehicle owner.]

28 (b) Requirements for issuance of certificate.--An official  
29 certificate of inspection shall not be issued unless the vehicle  
30 or mass transit vehicle is inspected and found to be in



1 compliance with the provisions of this chapter including any  
2 regulations promulgated by the department. The certificate of  
3 inspection shall be in the form prescribed by the department and  
4 indicate that a vehicle has passed the required inspection.  
5 Notation of the odometer reading shall be included on any  
6 certificate of inspection or other document as specified in  
7 department regulations.

8 \* \* \*

9 § 4728. Display of certificate of inspection.

10 The appropriate certificate of inspection shall be affixed to  
11 the vehicle or mass transit vehicle as specified in regulations  
12 adopted by the department. A current validating registration  
13 sticker displayed in accordance with section 1332(e) (relating  
14 to display of registration plate) evidences a vehicle has passed  
15 the required safety inspection.

16 Section 9. Section 4729 of Title 75 is repealed:

17 [~~§ 4729. Removal of certificate of inspection.~~

18 ~~No certificate of inspection shall be removed from a vehicle~~  
19 ~~or a mass transit vehicle for which the certificate was issued~~  
20 ~~except to replace it with a new certificate of inspection issued~~  
21 ~~in accordance with the provisions of this chapter or as follows:~~

22 (1) ~~The police officer may remove a certificate of~~  
23 ~~inspection in accordance with the provisions of section~~  
24 ~~4703(f) (relating to operation of vehicle without official~~  
25 ~~certificate of inspection).~~

26 (2) ~~A person replacing a windshield or repairing a~~  
27 ~~windshield in such a manner as to require removal of a~~  
28 ~~certificate of inspection shall at the option of the~~  
29 ~~registrant of the vehicle or the owner of a mass transit~~  
30 ~~vehicle cut out the portion of the windshield containing the~~

1 certificate and deliver it to the registrant of the vehicle  
2 or the owner of the mass transit vehicle or destroy the  
3 certificate. The vehicle or the mass transit vehicle may be  
4 driven for up to five days if it displays the portion of the  
5 old windshield containing the certificate as prescribed in  
6 department regulations. Within the five day period an  
7 official inspection station may affix to the vehicle or mass  
8 transit vehicle another certificate of inspection for the  
9 same inspection period without reinspecting the vehicle or  
10 mass transit vehicle in exchange for the portion of the old  
11 windshield containing the certificate of inspection. A fee of  
12 no more than \$2 plus the fee paid to the department may be  
13 charged for exchanging the certificate of inspection.

14 (3) A salvor shall remove and destroy the current  
15 certificate of inspection on every vehicle processed as  
16 abandoned in the salvor's possession except vehicles owned by  
17 the salvor or used in the operation of the business of the  
18 salvor.

19 (4) Every applicant for a certificate of salvage or  
20 nonrepairable certificate pursuant to Subchapter D of Chapter  
21 11 (relating to salvage vehicles, theft vehicles,  
22 reconstructed vehicles and flood vehicles) shall remove and  
23 destroy the current certificate of inspection.

24 (5) For the purposes of administering the requirements  
25 of regulations promulgated by the department, a qualified  
26 Commonwealth employee or an authorized department  
27 representative may remove an unauthorized, expired or  
28 unlawfully issued certificate of inspection or a certificate  
29 of inspection issued for a covert audit.]

30 Section 10. Section 7122 of Title 75 is amended to read:

1 § 7122. Altered, forged or counterfeit documents and plates.

2 A person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree if  
3 the person, with fraudulent intent:

4 (1) alters, forges or counterfeits a certificate of  
5 title, registration card or plate, validating registration  
6 sticker, inspection certificate or proof of financial  
7 responsibility;

8 (2) alters or forges an assignment of a certificate of  
9 title, or an assignment or release of a security interest on  
10 a certificate of title or any other document issued or  
11 prepared for issue by the department;

12 (3) has possession of, sells or attempts to sell, uses  
13 or displays a certificate of title, registration card or  
14 plate, driver's license, validating registration sticker,  
15 inspection certificate, proof of financial responsibility or  
16 any other document issued by the department, knowing it to  
17 have been altered, forged or counterfeited;

18 (4) obtains or attempts to obtain a certificate of  
19 inspection without valid proof of financial responsibility;  
20 or

21 (5) provides a certificate of inspection where there is  
22 no valid proof of financial responsibility.

23 Section 11. This act shall take effect as follows:

24 (1) The following provisions shall take effect  
25 immediately:

26 (i) This section.

27 (ii) The amendment of 75 Pa.C.S. § 1307(a).

28 (2) The remainder of this act shall take effect March 1,  
29 2021.