ENGROSSED HOUSE
BILL NO. 2449

By: Braddock of the House

and

Capps of the Senate

An Act relating to motor vehicles; amending 47 O.S. 1991, Section 1144, as amended by Section 6, Chapter 294, O.S.L. 1997 (47 O.S. Supp. 1997, Section 1144), which relates to methods of payment of fees and taxes; providing that use of check verification system is optional for certain counties; and providing an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 47 O.S. 1991, Section 1144, as amended by Section 6, Chapter 294, O.S.L. 1997 (47 O.S. Supp. 1997, Section 1144), is amended to read as follows:

Section 1144. A. Payments for any required registration fees, license plates or decals or excise taxes except as otherwise provided by law, may be made as follows:

1. By the applicant's personal or company check if presented within the period of time required for purchase or renewal of the registration and license plates or decals. At the time of presentment, the motor license agent <u>in counties with a population in excess of one hundred thousand (100,000) persons according to the latest Federal Decennial Census</u> shall utilize a check verification system provided by the Tax Commission to confirm that there are

sufficient funds to pay the check. Upon notification that there are insufficient funds, the agent shall refuse to accept the check or deliver the license plate or decal. If an agent fails to utilize the check verification system and the check is returned for nonpayment, the agent shall not receive any fees for the transaction. Motor license agents in counties with a population of one hundred thousand (100,000) persons or less according to the latest Federal Decennial Census may utilize a check verification system provided by the Tax Commission as set forth in this paragraph. No motor license agent shall be required to accept any check from any person during any penalty period relating to that person's registration; or

2. By a nationally recognized credit card issued to the applicant. The Oklahoma Tax Commission may add an amount equal to the amount of the service charge incurred, not to exceed four percent (4%) of the amount of such payment as a service charge for the acceptance of such credit card. For purposes of this paragraph, "nationally recognized credit card" means any instrument or device, whether known as a credit card, credit plate, charge plate or by any other name, issued with or without fee by an issuer for the use of the cardholder in obtaining goods, services or anything else of value on credit which is accepted by over one thousand merchants in this state. The Oklahoma Tax Commission shall determine which nationally recognized credit cards will be accepted by a motor license agent as payment for any required motor vehicle registration fees, license plates or decals or excise taxes. Provided however the Oklahoma Tax Commission must ensure that no loss of state revenue will occur by the use of such card.

B. Each motor license agent's office shall be open a minimum of forty (40) hours per week, of which four (4) such hours per week shall be in the evening hours or on Saturday, subject to the approval of the Commission, except during such weeks that contain a

legal holiday prescribed by the statutes of this state. Provided that the Commission may authorize a motor license agent to stay open a lesser period of time if the Commission is satisfied that the public is being properly served. Provided further, that there shall be at least one motor license agent in each county open the hours designated in this section. All motor license agents shall post their hours in a conspicuous place for the public's information.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 1998.

Passed the House of Representatives the 25th day of February, 1998.

Speaker of the House of Representatives

Passed the Senate the ____ day of _____, 1998.

President of the Senate