

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 47th Legislature (2000)

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR
HOUSE BILL NO. 2082

By: Greenwood

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

An Act relating to motor vehicles; amending 47 O.S. 1991, Section 10-104, as last amended by Section 2, Chapter 313, O.S.L. 1995 (47 O.S. Supp. 1999, Section 10-104), which relates to duty to give information after accident; requiring officer to obtain and provide information under certain circumstances; amending 47 O.S. 1991, Section 1109, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 355, O.S.L. 1998 (47 O.S. Supp. 1999, Section 1109), which relates to confidentiality of Tax Commission records; specifying information that can be released to law enforcement officers; amending 68 O.S. 1991, Section 205, as last amended by Section 37, Chapter 10, O.S.L. 1999 (68 O.S. Supp. 1999, Section 205), which relates to exceptions for confidentiality of Tax Commission records; establishing exception for providing insurance coverage information to law enforcement officers; and providing an effective date.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 47 O.S. 1991, Section 10-104, as last amended by Section 2, Chapter 313, O.S.L. 1995 (47 O.S. Supp. 1999, Section 10-104), is amended to read as follows:

Section 10-104. A. The driver of any vehicle involved in an accident resulting in injury to or death of any person or damage to any vehicle which is driven or attended by any person shall give his correct name, address and registration number of the vehicle he is driving, and shall upon request exhibit his driver license and his security verification form, as defined in Section 7-600 of this title, to the person struck or the driver or occupant of or person attending any vehicle collided with, and shall render to any person injured in such accident reasonable assistance, including the carrying, or the making of arrangements for the carrying, of such

person to a physician, surgeon or hospital for medical or surgical treatment if it is apparent that such treatment is necessary or if such carrying is requested by the injured person. Any driver who provides information required by this section which is intentionally inaccurate shall be subject to the provisions of Section 10-103 of this title. If a driver refuses or is unable to provide information to another driver pursuant to this subsection, it shall be the duty of any law enforcement officer investigating the accident to obtain and provide to the other driver involved in the accident the correct registration number of the vehicle being driven and the correct name, address, driver license number, insurer and insurance policy number of the driver refusing to provide the information.

B. Any driver of any vehicle involved in an accident who could be cited for any traffic offense where said accident resulted in the immediate death of any person shall submit to drug and alcohol testing as soon as practicable after such accident occurs. The traffic offense violation shall constitute probable cause for purposes of Section 752 of this title and the procedures found in Section 752 of this title shall be followed to determine the presence of alcohol or controlled dangerous substances within the driver's blood system.

SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 47 O.S. 1991, Section 1109, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 355, O.S.L. 1998 (47 O.S. Supp. 1999, Section 1109), is amended to read as follows:

Section 1109. A. All information contained in certificates of title, applications therefor, or registration certificates is hereby declared to be confidential information and shall not be copied by anyone or disclosed to anyone other than employees of the Oklahoma Tax Commission in the regular course of their employment, except as follows:

1. To law enforcement officers in the regular course of their duties, including obtaining insurer and insurance policy number

information to provide to a driver involved in an accident pursuant to Section 10-104 of this title;

2. To other governmental agencies when required in their governmental functions;

3. To any motor vehicle manufacturer or an authorized representative thereof for the purpose of meeting the requirements of the recall provisions of Title 15 U.S.C. 1974; provided that the manufacturer or representative shall, when requesting information pertaining to motor vehicles, furnish the Tax Commission with an affidavit stating the purpose for which the information is to be used, and that the confidentiality of the information shall be protected, as set out above, and used only for the purpose stated; provided, further, that the Tax Commission shall be authorized to review the use of and the measures employed to safeguard the information; and provided, further, that the manufacturer or representative shall bear the cost incurred by the Tax Commission in the production of the information requested. If the confidentiality provisions, as set out above, are violated, the provisions of subsection D of Section 205 of Title 68 of the Oklahoma Statutes shall apply and the privilege of obtaining information shall be terminated. Any manufacturer or representative violating the provisions of this paragraph, upon conviction, shall be punishable by a fine not to exceed Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00); and

4. To any person compiling and publishing motor vehicle statistics, provided that such statistics do not disclose the names and addresses of individuals. Such information shall be provided upon payment of a fee as determined by the Tax Commission.

B. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Tax Commission or motor license agent may, when requested for a particular vehicle, furnish desired information for the sum of One Dollar (\$1.00) per vehicle or make copies of certificates of title, applications therefor and registration certificates and sell the same for the fee hereinafter

prescribed. Certified copies of any and all records held by the Tax Commission relative to certificates of title and registration certificates issued under the laws of this state, duly certified by the Tax Commission, may be received in evidence with the same effect as the original, when such original is not in the possession or under the control of the party desiring to use the same. For each certified copy furnished under this section, a fee of Two Dollars (\$2.00) per instrument shall be charged and collected by the Tax Commission. All such funds shall be deposited in the Oklahoma Tax Commission Revolving Fund.

C. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Tax Commission may allow the release of information from its motor vehicle records upon magnetic tape consisting only of the following information:

1. The date of the certificate of title;
2. The certificate of title number;
3. The type of title issued for the vehicle;
4. The odometer reading from the certificate of title;
5. The year in which the vehicle was manufactured;
6. The vehicle identification number for the vehicle;
7. The make of the vehicle; and
8. The location in which the vehicle is registered.

The Tax Commission shall allow the release of such information upon payment of a fee to be determined by the Tax Commission. The information released as authorized by this subsection may only be used for purposes of detecting odometer rollback or odometer tampering, for determining the issuance in this state or any other state of salvage or rebuilt titles for vehicles or for determining whether a vehicle has been reported stolen in this state or any other state.

D. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any motor license agent, upon written request from a secured party for information contained in the certificate of title or registration certificate of a vehicle in

which the secured party has an interest or upon written request from a vehicle owner for information contained in the certificate of title or registration certificate of such vehicle, may furnish such desired information for the sum of One Dollar (\$1.00) per vehicle. Fees received by a motor license agent pursuant to the provisions of this subsection shall not be included in the maximum sum that may be retained by motor license agents as compensation pursuant to the provisions of Section 1143 of this title.

E. Notwithstanding the provisions of this section or of Section 205 of Title 68 of the Oklahoma Statutes, the Tax Commission may inform a secured party that taxes and fees are delinquent with respect to a vehicle upon which the secured party has a perfected lien.

F. The provisions of subsections A and B of this section shall not apply to vehicles in excess of twenty-six thousand (26,000) pounds, or to trailers or semitrailers which may be used in combination with such vehicles. The Tax Commission shall establish an appropriate fee to cover the cost of furnishing the requested data and shall issue specific rules and regulations for the dissemination of information that shall apply only to vehicles registered in Oklahoma with a gross vehicle weight in excess of twenty-six thousand (26,000) pounds, or the applicable trailers or semitrailers.

The release of such information shall be limited to Oklahoma incorporated and domiciled, nonprofit, tax exempt industry trade groups and organizations for the express purpose of making such data directly available to the heavy duty motor transportation industry.

SECTION 3. AMENDATORY 68 O.S. 1991, Section 205, as last amended by Section 37, Chapter 10, O.S.L. 1999 (68 O.S. Supp. 1999, Section 205), is amended to read as follows:

Section 205. A. The records and files of the Oklahoma Tax Commission concerning the administration of the Uniform Tax

Procedure Code or of any state tax law shall be considered confidential and privileged, except as otherwise provided for by law, and neither the Tax Commission nor any employee engaged in the administration of the Tax Commission or charged with the custody of any such records or files nor any person who may have secured information from the Tax Commission shall disclose any information obtained from the records or files or from any examination or inspection of the premises or property of any person.

B. Neither the Tax Commission nor any employee engaged in the administration of the Tax Commission or charged with the custody of any such records or files shall be required by any court of this state to produce any of the records or files for the inspection of any person or for use in any action or proceeding, except when the records or files or the facts shown thereby are directly involved in an action or proceeding pursuant to the provisions of the Uniform Tax Procedure Code or of the state tax law, or when the determination of the action or proceeding will affect the validity or the amount of the claim of the state pursuant to any state tax law, or when the information contained in the records or files constitutes evidence of violation of the provisions of the Uniform Tax Procedure Code or of any state tax law.

C. The provisions of this section shall not prevent the Tax Commission from disclosing the following information and no liability whatsoever, civil or criminal, shall attach to any member of the Tax Commission or any employee thereof for any error or omission in the disclosure of such information:

1. The delivery to a taxpayer or a duly authorized representative of the taxpayer of a copy of any report or any other paper filed by the taxpayer pursuant to the provisions of the Uniform Tax Procedure Code or of any state tax law;

2. The exchange of information that is not protected by the federal Privacy Protection Act, 42 U.S.C., Section 2000aa et seq.,

pursuant to reciprocal agreements entered into by the Tax Commission and other state agencies or agencies of the federal government;

3. The publication of statistics so classified as to prevent the identification of a particular report and the items thereof;

4. The examination of records and files by the State Auditor and Inspector or the duly authorized agents of the State Auditor and Inspector;

5. The disclosing of information or evidence to the Attorney General, any district attorney, or agent of any federal law enforcement agency when the information or evidence is to be used by such officials to prosecute violations of the criminal provisions of the Uniform Tax Procedure Code or of any state tax law or of any federal crime committed against this state. Any information disclosed to the Attorney General, any district attorney, or agent of any federal law enforcement agency shall be kept confidential by such person and not be disclosed except when presented to a court in a prosecution for violation of the tax laws of this state, and a violation by the Attorney General, district attorney, or agent of any federal law enforcement agency by otherwise releasing the information shall be a felony;

6. The use by any division of the Tax Commission of any information or evidence in the possession of or contained in any report or return filed with any other division of the Tax Commission;

7. The furnishing, at the discretion of the Tax Commission, of any information disclosed by its records or files to any official person or body of this state, any other state, the United States, or foreign country who is concerned with the administration or assessment of any similar tax in this state, any other state or the United States. The provisions of this paragraph shall include the furnishing of information by the Tax Commission to a county assessor to determine the amount of gross household income pursuant to the

provisions of Section 8C of Article X of the Oklahoma Constitution or Section 2890 of this title. The Tax Commission shall promulgate rules to give guidance to the county assessors regarding the type of information which may be used by the county assessors in determining the amount of gross household income pursuant to Section 8C of Article X of the Oklahoma Constitution or Section 2890 of this title. The provisions of this paragraph shall also include the furnishing of information to the State Treasurer for the purpose of administration of the Uniform Unclaimed Property Act;

8. The furnishing of information to other state agencies for the limited purpose of aiding in the collection of debts owed by individuals to such requesting agencies;

9. The furnishing of information requested by any member of the general public and stated in the sworn lists or schedules of taxable property of public service corporations organized, existing, or doing business in this state which are submitted to and certified by the State Board of Equalization pursuant to the provisions of Section 2858 of this title and Section 21 of Article X of the Oklahoma Constitution, provided such information would be a public record if filed pursuant to Sections 2838 and 2839 of this title on behalf of a corporation other than a public service corporation;

10. The furnishing of information requested by any member of the general public and stated in the findings of the Tax Commission as to the adjustment and equalization of the valuation of real and personal property of the counties of the state, which are submitted to and certified by the State Board of Equalization pursuant to the provisions of Section 2865 of this title and Section 21 of Article X of the Oklahoma Constitution;

11. The furnishing of information to an Oklahoma wholesaler of low-point beer, licensed under the provisions of Section 163.1 et seq. of Title 37 of the Oklahoma Statutes, of the licensed retailers authorized by law to purchase low-point beer in this state or the

furnishing of information to a licensed Oklahoma wholesaler of shipments by licensed manufacturers into this state;

12. The furnishing of information as to the issuance or revocation of any tax permit, license or exemption by the Tax Commission as provided for by law. Such information shall be limited to the name of the person issued the permit, license or exemption, the name of the business entity authorized to engage in business pursuant to the permit, license or exemption, the address of the business entity, and the grounds for revocation;

13. The posting of notice of revocation of any tax permit or license upon the premises of the place of business of any business entity which has had any tax permit or license revoked by the Tax Commission as provided for by law. Such notice shall be limited to the name of the person issued the permit or license, the name of the business entity authorized to engage in business pursuant to the permit or license, the address of the business entity, and the grounds for revocation;

14. The furnishing of information upon written request by any member of the general public as to the outstanding and unpaid amount due and owing by any taxpayer of this state for any delinquent tax, together with penalty and interest, for which a tax warrant or a certificate of indebtedness has been filed pursuant to law;

15. After the filing of a tax warrant pursuant to law, the furnishing of information upon written request by any member of the general public as to any agreement entered into by the Tax Commission concerning a compromise of tax liability for an amount less than the amount of tax liability stated on such warrant;

16. The disclosure of information necessary to complete the performance of any contract authorized by Sections 255 and 262 of this title to any person with whom the Tax Commission has contracted;

17. The disclosure of information to any person for a purpose as authorized by the taxpayer pursuant to a waiver of confidentiality. The waiver shall be in writing and shall be made upon such form as the Tax Commission may prescribe;

18. The disclosure of information required in order to comply with the provisions of Section 2369 of this title;

19. The disclosure to an employer, as defined in Sections 2385.1 and 2385.3 of this title, of information required in order to collect the tax imposed by Section 2385.2 of this title;

20. The disclosure to a plaintiff of a corporation's last-known address shown on the records of the Franchise Tax Division of the Tax Commission in order for such plaintiff to comply with the requirements of Section 2004 of Title 12 of the Oklahoma Statutes;

21. The disclosure of information directly involved in the resolution of the protest by a taxpayer to an assessment of tax or additional tax or the resolution of a claim for refund filed by a taxpayer, including the disclosure of the pendency of an administrative proceeding involving such protest or claim, to a person called by the Tax Commission as an expert witness or as a witness whose area of knowledge or expertise specifically addresses the issue addressed in the protest or claim for refund. Such disclosure to a witness shall be limited to information pertaining to the specific knowledge of that witness as to the transaction or relationship between taxpayer and witness;

22. The disclosure of information necessary to implement an agreement authorized by Section 2702 of this title when such information is directly involved in the resolution of issues arising out of the enforcement of a municipal sales tax ordinance. Such disclosure shall be to the governing body or to the municipal attorney, if so designated by the governing body;

23. The furnishing of information regarding incentive payments made pursuant to the provisions of Sections 3601 through 3609 of

this title or incentive payments made pursuant to the provisions of Sections 3501 through 3508 of this title;

24. The furnishing to a prospective purchaser of any business, or his or her authorized representative, of information relating to any liabilities, delinquencies, assessments or warrants of the prospective seller of the business which have not been filed of record, established, or become final and which relate solely to the seller's business. Any disclosure under this paragraph shall only be allowed upon the presentment by the prospective buyer, or the buyer's authorized representative, of the purchase contract and a written authorization between the parties; ~~or~~

25. The furnishing of information as to the amount of state revenue affected by the issuance or granting of any tax permit, license, exemption, deduction, credit or other tax preference by the Tax Commission as provided for by law. Such information shall be limited to the type of permit, license, exemption, deduction, credit or other tax preference issued or granted, the date and duration of such permit, license, exemption, deduction, credit or other tax preference and the amount of such revenue. The provisions of this paragraph shall not authorize the disclosure of the name of the person issued such permit, license, exemption, deduction, credit or other tax preference, or the name of the business entity authorized to engage in business pursuant to the permit, license, exemption, deduction, credit or other tax preference; or

26. The furnishing of insurer and insurance policy number to a law enforcement officer to provide to a driver involved in an accident pursuant to Section 10-104 of Title 47 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

D. The Tax Commission shall cause to be prepared and made available for public inspection in the office of the Tax Commission in such manner as it may determine an annual list containing the name and post office address of each person, whether individual,

corporate, or otherwise, making and filing an income tax return with the Tax Commission.

It is specifically provided that no liability whatsoever, civil or criminal, shall attach to any member of the Tax Commission or any employee thereof for any error or omission of any name or address in the preparation and publication of the list.

E. The Tax Commission shall prepare or cause to be prepared a report on all provisions of state tax law that reduce state revenue through exclusions, deductions, credits, exemptions, deferrals or other preferential tax treatments. The report shall be prepared not later than October 1 of each even-numbered year and shall be submitted to the Governor, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The Tax Commission may prepare and submit supplements to the report at other times of the year if additional or updated information relevant to the report becomes available. The report shall include, for the previous fiscal year, the Tax Commission's best estimate of the amount of state revenue that would have been collected but for the existence of each such exclusion, deduction, credit, exemption, deferral or other preferential tax treatment allowed by law. The Tax Commission may request the assistance of other state agencies as may be needed to prepare the report.

F. It is further provided that the provisions of this section shall be strictly interpreted and shall not be construed as permitting the disclosure of any other information contained in the records and files of the Tax Commission relating to income tax or to any other taxes.

G. Unless otherwise provided for in this section, any violation of the provisions of this section shall constitute a misdemeanor and shall be punishable by the imposition of a fine not exceeding One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) or by imprisonment in the county jail for a term not exceeding one (1) year, or by both such fine and

imprisonment, and the offender shall be removed or dismissed from office.

H. Offenses described in Section 2376 of this title shall be reported to the appropriate district attorney of this state by the Tax Commission as soon as the offenses are discovered by the Tax Commission or its agents or employees. The Tax Commission shall make available to the appropriate district attorney or to the authorized agent of the district attorney its records and files pertinent to prosecutions, and such records and files shall be fully admissible as evidence for the purpose of such prosecutions.

SECTION 4. This act shall become effective November 1, 2000.

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