ENROLLED HOUSE
BILL NO. 2132

By: Peters of the House

and

Dunlap of the Senate

An Act relating to vessel and motor registration; amending 63 O.S. 2001, Sections 4019, 4020, 4021, as amended by Section 2, Chapter 374, O.S.L. 2002, 4022 and 4030, as last amended by Section 2, Chapter 393, O.S.L. 2003 (63 O.S. Supp. 2003, Sections 4021 and 4030), which relate to the Oklahoma Vessel and Motor Registration Act; allowing a three-year registration of vessel or motor; providing for notice of three-year registration fees; providing for application of existing fees to three-year registration; requesting Oklahoma Tax Commission to adopt rules for placement of certain decals for antique boats; and providing an effective date.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 63 O.S. 2001, Section 4019, is amended to read as follows:

Section 4019. A. 1. The registration fees herein levied upon vessels and motors located within this state shall be due on the first day of July each year and shall become delinquent on the first day of August thereafter.

2. Any person owning a vessel or motor subject to the provisions of this subsection and failing or refusing to file application for the registration of such vessel or motor and to pay the annual registration fee as provided by the Oklahoma Vessel and Motor Registration Act, on or before the 31st day of July each year, shall be deemed delinquent.

B. On the registration of new vessels or new motors purchased in this state and on new or used vessels or motors used in this state or brought into this state between July 1 and September 30, inclusive, of any year the payment of the full annual registration and license fee shall be collected; and between October 1 and December 31, inclusive, of any year the payment of three-fourths (3/4) the annual registration and license fee shall be collected; and between January 1 and March 31, inclusive, of any year the payment of one-half (1/2) the annual registration and license fee shall be collected; and between April 1 and June 30, inclusive, of any year the payment of one-fourth (1/4) of the annual registration and license fee shall be collected.

C. Any person registering a vessel or motor under the provisions of the Oklahoma Vessel and Motor Registration Act may elect to have the vessel or motor registered for a three-year period. If a person elects to register the vessel or motor for a three-year period, the person shall pay ninety percent (90%) of the registration fees that the person would have otherwise paid if the person had registered the vessel or a motor on an annual basis over the three-year period. If a person is registering a vessel or motor pursuant to the provisions of subsection B of this section and elects to register the vessel or motor for a three-year period, the partial year registration shall count as one of the three (3) years of registration. The motor license agent registering the vessel or motor for a three-year period shall receive one hundred percent (100%) of the fees the motor license agent would have otherwise received pursuant to subsection B of Section 1141.1 of Title 47 of the Oklahoma Statutes if the vessel or motor had been registered on an annual basis over the three-year period.

SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 63 O.S. 2001, Section 4020, is amended to read as follows:

Section 4020. Beginning January 1, 1990, the Oklahoma Tax Commission shall ~~annually~~ notify through the mail all persons within the state who have previous vessel or motor registrations on record of the period for registration that are due to be registered in July of that year. Such notice shall contain all necessary information for such registration including a breakdown of all charges to be paid by the owner ~~and~~. The breakdown of the charges to be paid by the owner shall include the charges an owner would pay to register the vessel or motor for a one-year period and the charges an owner would pay to register the vessel or motor for a three-year period. The notice shall also contain instructions as to the procedure for renewal upon presentation to a motor license agent or by return mail to the Commission's state office. On the back of such registration notice form there shall be an explanation of the apportionment of all fees and penalties collected and their disposition. Such explanation shall include information as to all charges and fees included in the total fee or incident to the registration of a vessel or motor. If the owner chooses the option of receiving these services through the mail, either from the Commission or a motor license agent, he shall be instructed to pay the final total listed for the period of registration chosen by the owner. The cost of mailing shall be One Dollar ($1.00) for titles or other forms or devices required by the Oklahoma Vessel and Motor Registration Act. Provided, that the Commission may adjust any mailing costs as deemed appropriate to allow for increased or additional fees charged by the United States Postal Service.

Failure by any applicant to receive notification of renewal as provided by this section shall not excuse the applicant from properly obtaining any registration at the proper time by presenting proof of ownership to the Commission's state office or to a motor license agent.

SECTION 3. AMENDATORY 63 O.S. 2001, Section 4021, as amended by Section 2, Chapter 374, O.S.L. 2002 (63 O.S. Supp. 2003, Section 4021), is amended to read as follows:

Section 4021. A. The application required for the initial and ~~annual~~ subsequent registration of a vessel or a motor shall be accompanied by payment of the following fees:

1. Where the manufacturer's factory delivered price, or in the absence of such price being published in a recognized publication for the use of marine dealers and/or for purposes of insurance and financing firms, where the provable original or new cost of all materials, is One Hundred Fifty Dollars ($150.00) or less, the registration and license fee for the first and for each succeeding year's registration shall be One Dollar ($1.00);

2. Where the manufacturer's factory delivered price, or in the absence of such price being published as provided in paragraph 1 of this section, where the value of such vessel or motor is determined and fixed as above required and, is in excess of One Hundred Fifty Dollars ($150.00), there shall be added to the fee of One Dollar ($1.00), the sum of One Dollar ($1.00) for each One Hundred Dollars ($100.00) or any fraction thereof, in excess of One Hundred Fifty Dollars ($150.00) provided such fee shall not exceed One Hundred Fifty Dollars ($150.00);

3. After the first year's registration in this state under the Oklahoma Vessel and Motor Registration Act of any new vessel or new motor under paragraph 2 of this subsection, the registration for the second year shall be ninety percent (90%) of the fee computed and assessed hereunder for the first year, and thereafter, such fee shall be computed and assessed at ninety percent (90%) of the previous year's fee and shall be so computed and assessed for the next nine (9) successive years provided such fee shall not exceed One Hundred Fifty Dollars ($150.00);

4. The initial and ~~annual~~ subsequent registration fee for any vessel which is a part of a fleet used for lodging and for which a rental fee and sales tax are collected shall be Forty Dollars ($40.00) in lieu of the fees required by paragraphs 1 through 3 of this subsection. For the purpose of this paragraph, "fleet" means twenty or more vessels operated by a business organization from a single anchorage. The fee provided for in this paragraph may be reduced annually to zero until the total reduction equals the difference between the sum of the fees paid pursuant to paragraphs 1 through 3 of this subsection for the two registration years preceding January 1, 1990, and the fee provided for in this paragraph;

5. For any vessel or motor owned and numbered, registered or licensed prior to January 1, 1990, in this or any other state, or in the absence of such registration upon proof of the year, model and age of same, the registration fee shall be computed and assessed at the rate hereinabove provided for a new vessel or motor based on the value thereof determined as provided in this subsection, but reduced as though same had been registered for each prior year of its existence. Except as provided in paragraph 1 of this subsection, the registration fee for the eleventh year computed in accordance with the provisions of this subsection shall be the amount of the fee to be assessed for such eleventh year and shall be the minimum annual registration fee for such vessel or motor for any subsequent year; and

6. The initial and ~~annual~~ subsequent registration fee for any vessel or motor which is not being used in a trade or business or for any commercial purpose and is owned by:

a. a nonresident member of the Armed Forces of the United States assigned to duty in this state in compliance with official military or naval orders,

b. a resident member of the Armed Forces of the United States assigned to duty in this state in compliance with official military or naval orders,

c. the spouse, who resides in Oklahoma, of a resident or nonresident member of the Armed Forces of the United States serving in a foreign country, or

d. any Oklahoma resident who is stationed out of state due to an official assignment of the Armed Forces of the United States,

shall be the lesser of either a Fifteen Dollar ($15.00) registration fee or the fee computed and assessed for vessels or motors of similar age and model pursuant to this section.

B. As used in this section, the term "manufacturer's factory delivered price" shall represent the recommended retail selling price and shall not mean the wholesale price to a dealer.

C. The Tax Commission shall assess the registration fees and penalties for the year or years a vessel or motor was not registered as provided in the Oklahoma Vessel and Motor Registration Act. For vessels or motors not registered for two (2) or more years, the registration fees and penalties shall be due only for the current year and one (1) previous year.

D. Upon each vessel or motor repossessed by a mortgagee, a fee of Forty-six Dollars ($46.00) shall be assessed. This fee shall be in lieu of any applicable vessel or motor excise tax and registration fees. Each motor license agent accepting applications for certificates of title for such vessel or motors shall receive Seven Dollars ($7.00) to be deducted from the license fee specified in this paragraph for each application accepted.

E. All vessels or motors owned by the State of Oklahoma, its agencies or departments, or political subdivisions thereof, or which under the law would be exempt from direct ad valorem taxation, shall be registered pursuant to the provisions of the Oklahoma Vessel and Motor Registration Act for an annual fee of Two Dollars and twenty-five cents ($2.25) irrespective of whether registered by a motor license agent or the Tax Commission.

F. All vessels and motors owned by Boy Scouts of America, Girl Scouts of U.S.A., and the Campfire Girls, devoted exclusively to youth programs emphasizing physical fitness, character development and citizenship training, are hereby exempt from the payment of registration fees required by this section. Provided all of such vessels or motors shall be registered and shall otherwise comply with the provisions of the Oklahoma Vessel and Motor Registration Act.

G. A credit shall be allowed with respect to the fee for registration of any new vessel or new motor, when such new vessel or motor is a replacement for:

1. A new original vessel or new original motor which is stolen from the purchaser/registrant within ninety (90) days of the date of purchase of the original vessel or new original motor as certified by a police report or other documentation as required by the Tax Commission; or

2. A defective new original vessel or new original motor returned by the purchaser/registrant to the seller within six (6) months of the date of purchase of the defective new original vessel or new original motor as certified by the manufacturer.

Such credit shall be in the amount of the fee for registration which was paid for the new original vessel or new original motor and shall be applied to the registration fee for the replacement vessel or motor. In no event will said credit be refunded.

H. Upon proper proof of a lost certificate of registration being made to the Tax Commission or one of its motor license agents, accompanied by an application therefor and payment of the fees required by the Oklahoma Vessel and Motor Registration Act, a duplicate certificate of registration shall be issued to the applicant. The charge for such duplicate certificate of registration shall be Two Dollars and twenty-five cents ($2.25), which charge shall be in addition to any other fees imposed by Section 4022 of this title for any such vessel or motor.

I. In addition to any other fees levied by the Oklahoma Vessel and Motor Registration Act, there is levied and there shall be paid to the Tax Commission, for each year a vessel or motor is registered, a fee of One Dollar ($1.00) ~~upon every~~ for each vessel or motor for which a registration or license fee is required pursuant to the provisions of this section. The fee shall accrue and shall be collected upon each vessel or motor under the same circumstances and shall be payable in the same manner and times as apply to vessel and motor licenses and registrations under the provisions of the Oklahoma Vessel and Motor Registration Act; provided, the fee shall be paid in full for the then current year at the time any vehicle is first registered in a calendar year.

Monies collected pursuant to this subsection shall be apportioned by the Tax Commission to the State Treasurer for deposit in the Trauma Care Assistance Revolving Fund created in Section 330.97 of this title.

The collection and payment of the fee shall be a prerequisite to license or registration of any vessel or motor.

SECTION 4. AMENDATORY 63 O.S. 2001, Section 4022, is amended to read as follows:

Section 4022. A. In addition to the registration fees required by Section ~~21~~ 4021 of this ~~act~~ title, when any such application for registration is made directly to the Commission or to any motor vehicle agent, a One Dollar and twenty-five cents ($1.25) fee for each year the vessel or motor is registered shall be collected and

apportioned as provided by the provisions of the Oklahoma Vessel and Motor Registration Act.

B. 1. The charge for a copy of certificate of registration information is One Dollar ($1.00) for each instrument.

2. The charge for a certified copy of certificate of registration information is Two Dollars ($2.00) for each instrument.

SECTION 5. AMENDATORY 63 O.S. 2001, Section 4030, as last amended by Section 2, Chapter 393, O.S.L. 2003 (63 O.S. Supp. 2003, Section 4030), is amended to read as follows:

Section 4030. A. Except as otherwise provided by this section, every vessel on the waters of this state shall display the permanent number assigned to it by the Oklahoma Tax Commission or by a federally recognized Indian tribe which number shall not be obliterated, erased, mutilated, removed or missing.

B. The vessels authorized to display a number other than that required by the provisions of the Oklahoma Vessel and Motor Registration Act are:

1. A documented vessel, provided that such vessel is currently registered, is displaying both current registration decals, and the name, hailing port and official federal documentation number assigned to it are displayed on the vessel according to federal law or federal rules and regulations;

2. A vessel from a country other than the United States temporarily using the waters of this state;

3. A vessel from another state owned by an out-of-state resident using the waters of this state;

4. A vessel whose owner is the United States, a state or a subdivision thereof; provided, however, if such vessel is used for recreational or rental purposes on the public waters of this state, said vessel shall display the permanent number assigned to it by the Commission;

5. A vessel that is used exclusively and solely for racing purposes;

6. A vessel that is used exclusively and solely as a lifeboat; and

7. A commercial flotation device which is assigned a permit by the Oklahoma Scenic Rivers Commission pursuant to the provisions of Sections 1461 et seq. of Title 82 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

C. Except as otherwise provided for in this section, every vessel and every outboard motor on the waters of this state shall display the current registration decals or decal assigned to it by the Oklahoma Tax Commission. If, due to the size of the decal, the decal is unable to be properly displayed on the vessel or outboard motor, a new decal shall be issued for the vessel or outboard motor that would be able to be displayed properly.

D. The owner of any vessel issued a permanent number pursuant to the provisions of the Oklahoma Vessel and Motor Registration Act, Section 4002 et seq. of this title, shall place on or attach to the vessel said permanent number in such manner as may be prescribed by the rules of the Commission, in order that it may be clearly visible. The number shall be maintained in legible condition.

E. The provisions of this section shall not apply to sailboards or fishing tubes.

F. The Tax Commission shall adopt rules for the placement of the registration decal in an alternate location for antique boats. In this subsection, "antique boat" means a boat that:

1. Is used primarily for recreational purposes; and

2. Was manufactured before 1968.

Such rules shall allow vessels registered as antique boats to display the registration decal on the left portion of the windshield. In the absence of a windshield, the rules shall allow operators of antique boats to attach the registration decal to the certificate of registration and make such decal and certificate available for inspection when the boat is operated on public water.

SECTION 6. This act shall become effective November 1, 2004.

Passed the House of Representatives the 26th day of May, 2004.

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Presiding Officer of the House of Representatives

Passed the Senate the 26th day of May, 2004.

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Presiding Officer of the Senate