

HOUSE BILL 107

By Hulsey

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 55, Chapter 4, Part 2, relative to registration of boat trailers.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-4-201(8), is amended by deleting the language "boat dealer" and substituting instead the language "boat transport".

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-4-226(a), is amended by deleting the language "dealers and transporters of motor vehicles" and substituting instead the language "dealers, and transporters of motor vehicles or boats".

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-4-226, is amended by deleting subsection (f) and substituting instead the following:

(1) Registration plates issued under this subsection (f) may be issued only to manufacturers and dealers of boats or to persons or businesses that transport boats for hire.

(2) A person may operate a boat trailer for hire without registering the boat trailer, if the boat trailer is operated solely for the purpose of delivery of a boat to a customer of a manufacturer or dealer of boats and the boat trailer displays a special purpose boat transport plate issued to the manufacturer, dealer, person, or business as prescribed in this subsection (f).

(3) The following are authorized to make, either in person or through a duly authorized agent, employee, or lessee, application to any county clerk within the state, upon appropriate forms for a certificate and for one (1) or more special purpose boat transport plates:

(A) Any dealer or manufacturer of boats who hires individuals who own or operate boat trailers to deliver boats to the dealer's or manufacturer's customers; or

(B) Any person or business that owns or operates boat trailers to deliver boats.

(4) The boat transport plates must be of a different color than the auto dealer and special event plates issued in the state for the particular year in question and must have the legend "TENN" at the top of the plate and must have "boat transport" at the bottom of the plate. The legend must contain the letters "BT" and five (5) numbers.

(5) The fee for the first plate is forty-seven dollars and thirty cents (\$47.30), and the fee for any plates in addition to the first plate is twenty-three dollars and sixty-five cents (\$23.65) for each additional plate.

(6) The county clerk, upon granting an application, shall issue to the applicant, upon the payment of the appropriate fee, a certificate containing the applicant's name and address.

(7) The special purpose boat transport plates issued under this subsection (f) expire on May 31 of each year, and a new plate or plates for the ensuing year may be obtained by the person to whom the expired plate or plates were issued upon application to the registrar of motor vehicles, or the registrar's deputy as provided by law. Issuance of the plates begins May 1 of each year, upon payment of the fee provided by law, and proof by the applicant that the applicant is still engaged in business as a manufacturer or dealer of boats or as a person or business that transports boats for hire.

(8) A business license shall not be required as proof that a person or business transports boats for hire.

SECTION 4. This act takes effect July 1, 2021, the public welfare requiring it.