



## Texas Department of Motor Vehicles

### 86<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session Wrap-Up

#### TxDMV Sunset Review

The Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (TxDMV) successfully went through its first Sunset review as a standalone agency and was continued until 2031.

Senate Bill 604 was approved by the Legislature and includes several changes designed to enhance department operations including:

- Allowing vehicles to display a rear digital license plate if the vehicle is part of a commercial fleet, is owned or operated by a governmental entity, or is not a passenger vehicle.
- Requiring tax assessor-collectors (TACs) who contract with third-party deputies to comply with certain standard state contracting practices.
- Requiring TxDMV to implement a training program regarding RTS and fraud identification.
- Requiring TACs to make webDEALER available by Sept. 1, 2020.
- Allowing the comptroller to review a county's collection and remittance of revenue as part of its regular audit of state revenue.

#### 2020 – 2021 State Budget

With the support of TACA representatives, TxDMV secured critical funding from the Legislature that will allow the department and counties to better serve their customers.

- \$2.7 million to improve and enhance TxDMV's information technology infrastructure.
- 12 new FTEs to allow TxDMV to develop and maintain current and new IT projects and infrastructure.
- Nine new customer service FTEs to handle increased customer call and email volume.

#### Title & Registration Related Changes

- **Extended Trailer Registration**
  - House Bill 1262 allows trailers with a gross weight of 7,500 pounds or less to be registered for up to five years without renewal.
- **Assembled Vehicles**
  - House Bill 1755 establishes procedures and requirements for the titling and registration of assembled vehicles.
- **Vehicle Sales and Use Tax**
  - House Bill 1543 requires proof a payment of regular sales/use tax before and ATV, ROV, or UTV can be titled
- **Transactions with Out-of-Business Dealers**

- House Bill 3842 prevents motorists from being denied a title if the dealership has gone out of business.
- **Disabled Parking Placards**
  - House Bill 643 allows the person to make an application or pick up a placard in the county in which they are seeking their medical treatment regardless of county of residence.
- **Red Light Cameras**
  - House Bill 1631 prohibits the refusal to register a vehicle solely because the owner is delinquent in paying a red-light camera fee.
- **Classic Plates**
  - House Bill 3068 allows a disabled veteran (DV) to use a set of previously issued embossed DV license plates on a classic vehicle or certain exhibition vehicles.
- **ATV/OHV Plates**
  - House Bill 1548 requires TxDMV to issue license plates for all-terrain vehicles (ATV) and recreational off-highway vehicles (OHV).

### **New Specialty License Plates**

The Legislature approved 10 bills authorizing 14 new specialty plate designs including:

- Nine new military plate designs, including designs for disabled veterans
  - Army of Occupation Medal
  - China Service Medal
  - 173<sup>rd</sup> Airborne Brigade
  - Master Army Aviator
  - Nuclear Deterrence Operations Service Medal
- Six new general plate designs
  - F-35 Fighter Jet
  - Keep Austin Weird
  - Sickle Cell Awareness
  - Pediatric Cancer Research
  - TxDPS Purple Heart
  - Register to Vote