

TRANSPORTATION CODE

TITLE 7. VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC

SUBTITLE A. CERTIFICATES OF TITLE AND REGISTRATION OF VEHICLES

CHAPTER 520. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

SUBCHAPTER A. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 520.0071. DEPUTIES. (a) The board by rule shall prescribe:

- (1) the classification types of deputies performing titling and registration duties;
- (2) the duties and obligations of deputies;
- (3) the type and amount of any bonds that may be required by a county assessor-collector for a deputy to perform titling and registration duties; and
- (4) the fees that may be charged or retained by deputies.

(b) A county assessor-collector, with the approval of the commissioners court of the county, may deputize an individual or business entity to perform titling and registration services in accordance with rules adopted under Subsection (a).

Added by Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 1135 (H.B. 2741), Sec. 90, eff. September 1, 2013.

Added by Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 1287 (H.B. 2202), Sec. 44, eff. September 1, 2013.

Sec. 520.0075. CONTRACTING STANDARDS FOR TAX ASSESSOR-COLLECTOR. (a) In this section, "deputy" means a deputy classified as a full service deputy by a board rule adopted under Section 520.0071.

(b) Notwithstanding Section 262.023, Local Government Code, a county tax assessor-collector who awards a contract to a deputy for the performance of registration and titling services must comply with standard state contracting practices as if the county tax assessor-collector were a state agency, including requirements related to:

- (1) purchase methods and competitive bidding under Sections 2155.062 and 2155.063, Government Code;
- (2) determining the best value for the county under Sections 2155.074, 2155.075, and 2155.0755, Government Code;
- (3) contracting standards and oversight under Chapter 2261, Government Code; and

(4) contract management under Chapter 2262, Government Code.

(c) A contract described by Subsection (b) must:

(1) specify an expiration date and renewal or extension terms for the contract; and

(2) include performance criteria and measures necessary to evaluate the performance of the deputy under the contract.

(d) A county tax assessor-collector shall monitor and evaluate the performance of a deputy awarded a contract described by this section and use that information in determining whether to renew or extend the contract or award a new contract.

Added by Acts 2019, 86th Leg., R.S., Ch. 594 (S.B. 604), Sec. 4.03, eff. September 1, 2019.

Sec. 520.0093. LEASE OF COMPUTER EQUIPMENT. (a) The department may lease equipment and provide related services to a:

(1) county for the operation of the automated registration and titling system in addition to the equipment provided by the department at no cost to the county under a formula prescribed by the department; and

(2) deputy appointed under Section 520.0071.

(b) On the request of the tax assessor-collector of a county, the department may enter into an agreement with the commissioners court of that county under which the department leases additional equipment to the county for the use of the tax assessor-collector in operating the automated registration and titling system in that county.

(b-1) On the request of a deputy appointed under Section 520.0071, the department may enter into an agreement under which the department leases equipment to the deputy for the use of the deputy in operating the automated registration and titling system. The department may require the deputy to post a bond in an amount equal to the value of the equipment.

(c) A county may install equipment leased under this section at offices of the county or of an agent of the county. A deputy appointed under Section 520.0071 may install equipment leased under this section on the premises described in the agreement.

(d) Equipment leased under this section:

(1) remains the property of the department; and

(2) must be used primarily for the automated registration and titling system.

(e) Under the agreement, the department shall charge an amount not less than the amount of the cost to the department to provide the equipment and any related services under the lease. All money collected under the lease shall be deposited to the credit of the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles fund.

Redesignated and amended from Transportation Code, Section 520.002 by Acts 2011, 82nd Leg., R.S., Ch. 1296 (H.B. [2357](#)), Sec. 232, eff. January 1, 2012.

Amended by:

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 1135 (H.B. [2741](#)), Sec. 91, eff. September 1, 2013.

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 1135 (H.B. [2741](#)), Sec. 92, eff. September 1, 2013.

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 1287 (H.B. [2202](#)), Sec. 45, eff. September 1, 2013.

Texas Administrative Code

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TITLE 43	TRANSPORTATION
PART 10	TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES
CHAPTER 217	VEHICLE TITLES AND REGISTRATION
SUBCHAPTER H	DEPUTIES
RULE §217.161	Purpose and Scope

Pursuant to Transportation Code, §520.0071, a county tax assessor-collector, with the approval of the commissioners court of the county, may appoint deputies to perform designated motor vehicle titling and registration services. This subchapter prescribes the classification types, duties, and obligations of deputies; the type and amount of any bonds that deputies may be required to post; and the fees that deputies may be authorized to charge or retain. A deputy appointed under Transportation Code, §520.0071, on or before December 31, 2016, may continue to perform services authorized under former Transportation Code, §§520.008, 520.009, 520.0091, and 520.0092, as amended by Acts 2011, 82nd Leg., ch. 1296 (H.B. 2357). Beginning January 1, 2017, all deputies must be deputized in accordance with and comply with the provisions of this subchapter.

RULE §217.162 Definitions

The following words and terms, when used in this subchapter, shall have the following meanings unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

- (1) Board--Board of the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles.
- (2) Commercial fleet buyer--An entity that, in compliance with Transportation Code, §501.0234(b), is deputized under this subchapter, utilizes the dealer title application process developed to provide a method to submit title transactions to the county in which the commercial fleet buyer is a deputy, and has authority to accept an application for registration and application for title transfer that the county tax assessor-collector may accept.
- (3) Dealer deputy--A motor vehicle dealer, as defined by Transportation Code, §503.001(4), including a commercial fleet buyer, who is deputized to process motor vehicle titling and registration transactions, and who may be authorized to provide registration renewal services. Dealer deputy includes an individual, who is not himself or herself appointed as a deputy, employed, hired, or otherwise engaged by the dealer deputy to serve as the deputy's agent in performing motor vehicle titling, registration or registration renewal services.

(4) Department--Texas Department of Motor Vehicles.

(5) Deputy--A person appointed to serve in an official government capacity to perform, under the provisions of this subchapter, designated motor vehicle titling, registration, and registration renewal services as a deputy assessor-collector. The term "deputy" does not include an employee of a county tax assessor-collector.

(6) Full service deputy--A deputy appointed to accept and process applications for motor vehicle title transfers and initial registrations, and process registration renewals and other transactions related to titling and registration. Full service deputy includes an individual, who is not himself or herself appointed as a deputy, employed, hired, or otherwise engaged by the full service deputy to serve as the deputy's agent in performing motor vehicle titling, registration or registration renewal services.

(7) Limited service deputy--A deputy appointed to accept and process motor vehicle registration renewals. Limited service deputy includes an individual, who is not himself or herself appointed as a deputy, employed, hired, or otherwise engaged by the limited service deputy to serve as the deputy's agent in performing motor vehicle registration renewals.

(8) Person--An individual, business organization, governmental subdivision or agency, or any other legal entity.

RULE §217.163 Full Service Deputies

(a) A county tax assessor-collector, with the approval of the commissioners court of the county, may deputize a person to act as a full service deputy in the same manner and with the same authority as though done in the office of the county tax assessor-collector, subject to the criteria and limitations of this section, including signing the addendum as specified in subsection (k) of this section.

(b) A full service deputy must offer and provide titling and registration services to the general public, and must accept any application for registration, registration renewal, or title transfer that the county tax assessor-collector would accept and process, unless otherwise limited by the county.

(c) The county tax assessor-collector may impose reasonable obligations or requirements upon a full service deputy in addition to those set forth in this section.

(d) To be eligible to serve as a full service deputy, a person must be trained, as approved by the county tax assessor-collector, to perform motor vehicle titling, registration, and registration renewal services, or otherwise be deemed competent by the county tax assessor-collector to perform such services.

(e) To be eligible to serve as a full service deputy, a person must post a bond payable to the county tax assessor-collector consistent with §217.167 of this title (relating to Bonding Requirements) with the bond conditioned on the person's proper accounting and remittance of the fees the person collects.

- (f) A person applying to be a full service deputy must complete the application process as specified by the county tax assessor-collector. The application process may include satisfaction of any bonding requirements and completion of any additional required documentation or training of the deputy before the processing of any title, registration, or registration renewal applications may occur.
- (g) A full service deputy must provide the physical address at which services will be offered, the mailing address, the phone number, and the hours of service. This information may be published on the department's website and may be published by the county if the county publishes a list of deputy locations.
- (h) A full service deputy shall keep a separate accounting of the fees collected and remitted to the county and a record of daily receipts.
- (i) A full service deputy may charge or retain fees consistent with the provisions of §217.168 of this title (relating to Deputy Fee Amounts).
- (j) A full service deputy must maintain records in compliance with the State of Texas Records Retention Schedule as promulgated by the Texas State Library and Archives Commission.
- (k) Beginning January 1, 2017, a full service deputy must sign an addendum provided by the department outlining the terms and conditions of the full service deputy's access to and use of the department's registration and titling system. Any contract or agreement, or renewal of the contract or agreement, between the county and the full service deputy that authorizes the full service deputy to provide registration and titling services in the county must specifically incorporate the addendum by reference, and the contract or agreement may not supersede or contradict any term within the addendum. An addendum described by this subsection is required for each location at which the full service deputy operates. The addendum must be incorporated into any agreement or contract between the full service deputy and the county beginning January 1, 2017. The county must provide the department a current copy of each contract or agreement, including any amendments, with a full service deputy within 60 days of execution.

RULE §217.167 Bonding Requirements

- (a) A deputy appointed under this subchapter shall post a surety bond payable to the county tax assessor-collector.
- (b) A deputy is required to post a single bond for a county in which the deputy performs titling, registration, or registration renewal services, regardless of the number of locations in that county from which that deputy may provide these services.
- (c) A full service deputy or dealer deputy must post a bond in an amount between \$100,000 and \$5,000,000, as determined by the county tax assessor-collector.

(d) A limited service deputy must post a bond in an amount between \$2,500 and \$1,000,000, as determined by the county tax assessor-collector.

(e) A deputy that is an agency or subdivision of a governmental jurisdiction of the State of Texas is not required to post a bond pursuant to this section, unless the county tax assessor-collector determines that a bond should be required in an amount consistent with subsection (d) of this section.

RULE §217.168 Deputy Fee Amounts

(a) Fees. A county tax assessor-collector may authorize a deputy to charge or retain the fee amounts prescribed by this section according to the type of deputy and transaction type.

(b) Title transactions. For each motor vehicle title transaction processed:

(1) A full service deputy may charge the customer a fee of up to \$20, as determined by the full service deputy and approved by the tax assessor-collector. The full service deputy retains the entire fee charged to the customer.

(2) A dealer deputy may charge the customer a fee of up to \$10, as determined by the dealer deputy and approved by the tax assessor-collector. The dealer deputy retains the entire fee charged to the customer. This section does not preclude a dealer deputy from charging a documentary fee authorized by Finance Code, §348.006.

(c) Registration and registration renewals. For each registration transaction processed:

(1) A full service deputy may:

(A) retain \$1 from the processing and handling fee established by §217.183 of this title (relating to Fee Amount); and

(B) charge a convenience fee of \$9, except as limited by §217.184 of this title (relating to Exclusions).

(2) A limited service deputy may retain \$1 from the processing and handling fee established by §217.183.

(d) Temporary permit transactions under Transportation Code, §502.094 or §502.095. For each temporary permit transaction processed by a full service deputy, the full service deputy may retain the entire processing and handling fee established by §217.183.

(e) Full service deputy convenience fee. The convenience fee authorized by this section is collected by the full service deputy directly from the customer and is in addition to the processing and handling fee established by §217.183. A full service deputy may not charge any additional fee for a registration or registration renewal transaction.

(f) Related transactions by a full service deputy. The limitations of subsections (b),

(c), (d), and (e) of this section do not apply to other services that a full service deputy

may perform that are related to titles or registrations, but are not transactions that must be performed through the department's automated vehicle registration and title system. Services that are not transactions performed through the department's automated vehicle registration and title system include, but are not limited to, the additional fees a full service deputy may charge for copying, faxing, or transporting documents required to obtain or correct a motor vehicle title or registration. However, the additional fees that a full service deputy may charge for these other services may be limited by the terms of the county tax assessor-collector's authorization to act as deputy.

(g) Posting of fees. At each location where a full service deputy provides titling or registration services, the deputy must prominently post a list stating all fees charged for each service related to titling or registration. The fee list must specifically state each service, including the additional fee charged for that service, that is subject to subsections (b), (c), (d), or (e) of this section. The fee list must also state that each service subject to an additional fee under subsection (b), (c), (d), or (e) of this section may be obtained from the county tax assessor-collector without the additional fee. If the full service deputy maintains a website advertising or offering titling or registration services, the deputy must post the fee list described by this subsection on the website.

(h) Additional compensation. The fee amounts set forth in this section do not preclude or limit the ability of a county to provide additional compensation to a deputy out of county funds.

SUBCHAPTER I

FEES

RULE §217.185

Allocation of Processing and Handling Fee

(a) For registration transactions, except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, the fee amount established in §217.183 of this title (relating to Fee Amount) shall be allocated as follows:

(1) If the registration transaction was processed in person at the office of the county tax assessor-collector:

(A) the county tax assessor-collector may retain \$2.30; and

(B) the remaining amount shall be remitted to the department.

(2) If the registration transaction was mailed to office of the county tax assessor-collector:

(A) the county tax assessor-collector may retain \$2.30; and

(B) the remaining amount shall be remitted to the department.

(3) If the registration transaction was processed through the department or the TxIRP system or is a registration processed under Transportation Code, §§502.0023,

502.091, or 502.255; or §217.46(b)(5) or (d)(1)(B)(i) of this title (relating to Commercial Vehicle Registration):

(A) \$2.30 will be remitted to the county tax assessor-collector; and

(B) the remaining amount shall be retained by the department.

(4) If the registration transaction was processed through the department's online registration portal, the fee established in §217.183 is discounted by \$1:

(A) Texas Online receives the amount set pursuant to Government Code, §2054.2591, Fees;

(B) the county tax assessor-collector may retain \$.25; and

(C) the remaining amount shall be remitted to the department.

(5) If the registration transaction was processed by a limited service deputy or full service deputy appointed by the county tax assessor-collector in accordance with Subchapter H of this chapter (relating to Deputies):

(A) the deputy may retain:

(i) the amount specified in §217.168(c) of this title (relating to Deputy Fee Amounts). The deputy must remit the remainder of the processing and handling fee to the county tax assessor-collector; and

(ii) the convenience fee established in §217.168, if the registration transaction is processed by a full service deputy;

(B) the county tax assessor-collector may retain \$1.30; and

(C) the county tax assessor-collector must remit the remaining amount to the department.

(6) If the registration transaction was processed by a dealer deputy appointed by the county tax assessor-collector in accordance with Subchapter H of this chapter (relating to Deputies):

(A) the deputy must remit the processing and handling fee to the county tax assessor-collector;

(B) the county tax assessor-collector may retain \$2.30; and

(C) the county tax assessor-collector must remit the remaining amount to the department.

(b) For transactions under Transportation Code, §§502.092-502.095, the entity receiving the application and processing the transaction collects and retains the entire processing and handling fee established in §217.183. A full service deputy processing a temporary permit transaction may not charge a convenience fee for that transaction.