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By:

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A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the operation of mobile cranes; authorizing a fee.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Chapter 622, Transportation Code, is amended to by adding Subchapter L to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER L. MOBILE CRANES

SECTION 2. Section 622.301. DEFINITION. MOBILE CRANE means a self-propelled vehicle that is used solely to raise, shift, or lower heavy weights by means of a projecting, swinging mast with an engine for power on a chassis permanently constructed or assembled for that purpose and is designed to be moved between operating locations by transport over the road.

SECTION 3. Section 621.301(e), Transportation Code, is

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amended to read as follows:

(e) A vehicle operating under a permit issued under Section 623.011, 623.0176, 623.071, 623.094, 623.121, 623.142, 623.181, 623.192, or 623.212 may operate under the conditions authorized by the permit over a road for which the commissioners court has set a maximum weight under this section.

SECTION 4. Subchapter L, Chapter 622, Transportation Code, is amended by adding Section 622.302 to read as follows:

Sec. 622.202. PERMIT FOR MOBILE CRANES. (a) DEFINITION. MOBILE CRANE means a self-propelled vehicle that is used solely to raise, shift, or lower heavy weights by means of a projecting, swinging mast with an engine for power on a chassis permanently constructed or assembled for that purpose and is designed to be moved between operating locations by transport over the road.

(b) The department shall issue a permit that authorizes the operation of a vehicle transporting mobile cranes at a gross weight of over 80,000 pounds up to 100,000 pounds.

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(c) Except as provided by Subsection (g), to qualify for a permit under this section, a permit fee of \$1,000 must be paid, with half of that fee distributed to counties.

(d) A permit issued under this section:

(1) is valid for one year, except as provided by Subsection (f); and

(2) must be carried in the vehicle for which it is issued.

(e) When the department issues a permit under this section, the department shall issue a sticker to be placed on the front windshield of the vehicle. The department shall design the form of the sticker to aid in the enforcement of weight limits for vehicles.

(f) The sticker must:

(1) indicate the expiration date of the permit; and

(2) be removed from the vehicle when:

(A) the permit for operation of the vehicle

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expires;

(B) a lease of the vehicle expires; or

(C) the vehicle is sold.

(g) The department may issue a permit under this section that is valid for a period of less than one year. The department shall prorate the applicable fee required by Subsection (b) for a permit issued under this subsection as necessary to reflect the term of the permit.

(h) Unless otherwise provided by state or federal law, a county or municipality may not require a permit, fee, or license for the operation of a vehicle described by Subsection (a) in addition to a permit, fee, or license required by state law.

(i) A vehicle described by Subsection (a) may operate on a state, county, or municipal road, including a load-zoned county road or a frontage road adjacent to a federal interstate highway, if the vehicle displays a valid sticker required by Subsection (e) and does not exceed the maximum gross weight authorized under

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Subsection (b).

(j) A permit issued under this Section shall be governed to allow:

(1) movement on any day, except between the hours of 7:00am and 9a.m. and between the hours of 4:00pm and 6:00pm;

(2) movement that may be limited by the Texas Department of Transportation with regard to hours for travel on certain routes because of heavy traffic conditions; and

(3) movements with limitations prescribed by this subchapter that shall be published by the Texas Department of Transportation and shall be available to the public.

(k) The department by rule shall require an applicant to designate in the permit application the counties in which the applicant intends to operate.

(l) This section does not authorize the operation on the national system of interstate and defense highways in this state of a vehicle of a size or weight greater than those permitted under 23

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U.S.C. Section 127.

(m) If the United States authorizes the operation on the national system of interstate and defense highways of a vehicle of a size or weight greater than those permitted under 23 U.S.C. Section 127 on September 1, 2017, the new limit automatically takes effect on the national system of interstate and defense highways in this state.

SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.