

No. 237, A.]

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CHAPTER 593

AN ACT to amend 85.055 (1) and (2); and to repeal and recreate 85.05 of the statutes, relating to foreign licensed motor vehicles.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. 85.05 of the statutes is repealed and recreated to read:

85.05 MOTOR VEHICLES, FOREIGN LICENSED AND EQUIPPED. (1) Any nonresident of this state shall be exempt from the laws of this state providing for the registration and taxation of motor vehicles, trailers and semitrailers, from the imposition of regulatory fees and charges against such vehicles, and from the licensing of operators and chauffeurs, to the same extent as like exemptions are granted any resident of this state under the laws of another state or foreign country of such nonresident; provided that such nonresident shall have complied with the provisions of the law of the state or foreign country of his residence relative to the registration of his motor vehicles, trailers and semitrailers and shall conspicuously display a legal registration plate, and provided also the operator of such vehicle or vehicles has in his possession a valid registration certificate or other evidence of such registration issued for each vehicle and a valid operator's or chauffeur's license or permit as required by the laws of the state or foreign country of his residence.

(2) The commissioner of the motor vehicle department with the approval of the governor is hereby empowered to make agreements with the duly authorized representatives of other states, the District of Columbia, or any foreign state or province exempting the

residents of such other states or foreign countries using the highways of this state from the payment of all or any taxes, fees or other charges imposed by the laws of this state, with such restrictions, conditions and privileges, including any proportional registration, taxes or fees, as he may deem advisable; provided, that a vehicle owned by a nonresident shall be properly registered in the state of the residence of its owner, its domicile or the principal place of business of its owner, and shall conspicuously display a legal registration plate, and provided also the operator of such vehicle shall have in his possession a registration certificate, or other evidence of such registration, issued for such vehicle; and, such agreement shall provide that a resident of this state when using the highways of such other state or foreign country shall receive exemptions of a similar kind to a like degree.

(3) If by the laws of any other state or foreign country any taxes, fees, charges, fines, penalties, obligations, prohibitions, restrictions or limitations of any kind are imposed upon the vehicles of residents of this state additional to those imposed by this state upon the vehicles of residents of such other state or foreign country the commissioner of the motor vehicle department with the approval of the governor shall have the authority to impose and collect fees or charges in a like amount, and to provide for similar obligations, prohibitions, restrictions or limitations upon the owner or operator of a vehicle registered in such other state or foreign country so long as the laws of the other state or foreign country requiring such imposition remain in force and effect.

(4) The commissioner of the motor vehicle department with the approval of the governor is hereby empowered to enter into full, complete motor vehicle reciprocity agreements with the duly authorized representatives of other states exempting the residents of those states from complying with ch. 85 pertaining to vehicle equipment required for the same time and to the same extent as like exemptions are granted to residents of this state.

(5) Notwithstanding any contrary provision of this section, the commissioner of the motor vehicle department, with the approval of the governor, shall have authority to enter into reciprocal agreements with the responsible officers of other states as to licenses, permit fees, mileage and flat taxes under which motor vehicles, trailers or semitrailers properly licensed or registered in other states may be operated in interstate commerce in this state without a Wisconsin registration or the payment of permit fees or mileage or flat taxes, provided like privileges are accorded to vehicles owned by Wisconsin residents when operated in such other states, provided further, that trailers and semitrailers owned by residents of a state with which a reciprocal agreement is in effect pursuant to this chapter may be operated in interstate commerce by a Wisconsin resident in Wisconsin without the payment of fees or ton mile or flat taxes when such trailers or semitrailers are operated in exchange for trailers or semitrailers or are operated in accordance with rules and regulations promulgated by the commissioner of the motor vehicle department respecting the interchange of equipment.

SECTION 2. 85.055 (1) and (2) of the statutes are amended to read:

85.055 (1) Operators or owners of motor vehicles which have a gross weight of 8,000 pounds or more or which are operated in conjunction with other vehicles as a unit having an aggregate combined gross weight of 8,000 pounds or more, as a condition precedent to being granted the reciprocity privileges under s. 85.05, shall first file with the motor vehicle department in this state an instrument in writing, subscribed by him and duly acknowledged before a notary public or other officer with like authority, setting forth the name and address of the owner and such information as the motor vehicle department shall require. A motor vehicle within the meaning of this section shall be deemed to be a motor * * * truck or truck tractor * * *.

(2) Upon compliance with this section by a nonresident motor vehicle owner or operator, the motor vehicle department shall issue to him an identification plate for each vehicle so registered. The identification plate shall be carried and displayed on the motor vehicle which is identified on the application blank for such registration. Upon such compliance, such owner is entitled to operate such motor vehicle within the state for and during such time as he continues to own such motor vehicle with license to operate the same in his own state or county. Administration costs of this section shall be chargeable to the funds collected under * * * s. 85.01 (4) (c).

Approved July 17, 1953.