

HB4441



104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

HB4441

Introduced 1/20/2026, by Rep. Dave Vella

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

625 ILCS 5/3-402

from Ch. 95 1/2, par. 3-402

625 ILCS 5/3-808.1

Amends the Illinois Vehicle Code. Exempts from the registration and certificate of title provisions of the Code any vehicle that is owned and operated by a county sheriff's office and that has externally displayed on it evidence of the county sheriff's ownership. Makes a conforming change.

LRB104 16986 LNS 30400 b

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning transportation.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Illinois Vehicle Code is amended by
5 changing Sections 3-402 and 3-808.1 as follows:

6 (625 ILCS 5/3-402) (from Ch. 95 1/2, par. 3-402)

7 Sec. 3-402. Vehicles subject to registration; exceptions.

8 A. Exemptions and Policy. Every motor vehicle, trailer,
9 semitrailer and pole trailer when driven or moved upon a
10 highway shall be subject to the registration and certificate
11 of title provisions of this Chapter except:

12 (1) Any such vehicle driven or moved upon a highway in
13 conformance with the provisions of this Chapter relating
14 to manufacturers, transporters, dealers, lienholders or
15 nonresidents or under a temporary registration permit
16 issued by the Secretary of State;

17 (2) Any implement of husbandry whether of a type
18 otherwise subject to registration hereunder or not which
19 is only incidentally operated or moved upon a highway,
20 which shall include a not-for-hire movement for the
21 purpose of delivering farm commodities to a place of first
22 processing or sale, or to a place of storage;

23 (3) Any special mobile equipment as herein defined;

(4) Any vehicle which is propelled exclusively by electric power obtained from overhead trolley wires though not operated upon rails;

(5) Any vehicle which is equipped and used exclusively as a pumper, ladder truck, rescue vehicle, searchlight truck, or other fire apparatus, but not a vehicle of a type which would otherwise be subject to registration as a vehicle of the first division;

(6) Any vehicle which is owned and operated by the federal government and externally displays evidence of federal ownership. It is the policy of the State of Illinois to promote and encourage the fullest use of its highways and to enhance the flow of commerce thus contributing to the economic, agricultural, industrial and social growth and development of this State, by authorizing the Secretary of State to negotiate and enter into reciprocal or proportional agreements or arrangements with other States, or to issue declarations setting forth reciprocal exemptions, benefits and privileges with respect to vehicles operated interstate which are properly registered in this and other States, assuring nevertheless proper registration of vehicles in Illinois as may be required by this Code;

(6.5) Any vehicle that is owned and operated by a county sheriff's office and that has externally displayed on it evidence of the county sheriff's ownership.

(7) Any converter dolly or tow dolly which merely serves as substitute wheels for another legally licensed vehicle. A title may be issued on a voluntary basis to a tow dolly upon receipt of the manufacturer's certificate of origin or the bill of sale;

(8) Any house trailer found to be an abandoned mobile home under the Abandoned Mobile Home Act;

(9) Any vehicle that is not properly registered or does not have registration plates or digital registration plates issued to the owner or operator affixed thereto, or that does have registration plates or digital registration plates issued to the owner or operator affixed thereto but the plates are not appropriate for the weight of the vehicle, provided that this exemption shall apply only while the vehicle is being transported or operated by a towing service and has a third tow plate affixed to it;

(10) Low-speed electric scooters.

B. Reciprocity. Any motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer or pole trailer need not be registered under this Code provided the same is operated interstate and in accordance with the following provisions and any rules and regulations promulgated pursuant thereto:

(1) A nonresident owner, except as otherwise provided in this Section, owning any foreign registered vehicle of a type otherwise subject to registration hereunder, may operate or permit the operation of such vehicle within

1 this State in interstate commerce without registering such
2 vehicle in, or paying any fees to, this State subject to
3 the condition that such vehicle at all times when operated
4 in this State is operated pursuant to a reciprocity
5 agreement, arrangement or declaration by this State, and
6 further subject to the condition that such vehicle at all
7 times when operated in this State is duly registered in,
8 and displays upon it, a valid registration card and
9 registration plate or plates or digital registration plate
10 or plates issued for such vehicle in the place of
11 residence of such owner and is issued and maintains in
12 such vehicle a valid Illinois reciprocity permit as
13 required by the Secretary of State, and provided like
14 privileges are afforded to residents of this State by the
15 State of residence of such owner.

16 Every nonresident including any foreign corporation
17 carrying on business within this State and owning and
18 regularly operating in such business any motor vehicle,
19 trailer or semitrailer within this State in intrastate
20 commerce, shall be required to register each such vehicle
21 and pay the same fees therefor as is required with
22 reference to like vehicles owned by residents of this
23 State.

24 (2) Any motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer and pole
25 trailer operated interstate need not be registered in this
26 State, provided:

(a) that the vehicle is properly registered in another State pursuant to law or to a reciprocity agreement, arrangement or declaration; or

(b) that such vehicle is part of a fleet of vehicles owned or operated by the same person who registers such fleet of vehicles pro rata among the various States in which such fleet operates; or

(c) that such vehicle is part of a fleet of vehicles, a portion of which are registered with the Secretary of State of Illinois in accordance with an agreement or arrangement concurred in by the Secretary of State of Illinois based on one or more of the following factors: ratio of miles in Illinois as against total miles in all jurisdictions; situs or base of a vehicle, or where it is principally garaged, or from whence it is principally dispatched or where the movements of such vehicle usually originate; situs of the residence of the owner or operator thereof, or of his principal office or offices, or of his places of business; the routes traversed and whether regular or irregular routes are traversed, and the jurisdictions traversed and served; and such other factors as may be deemed material by the Secretary and the motor vehicle administrators of the other jurisdictions involved in such apportionment. Such vehicles shall maintain therein any reciprocity permit which may be required

1 by the Secretary of State pursuant to rules and
2 regulations which the Secretary of State may
3 promulgate in the administration of this Code, in the
4 public interest.

5 (3) (a) In order to effectuate the purposes of this
6 Code, the Secretary of State of Illinois is empowered to
7 negotiate and execute written reciprocal agreements or
8 arrangements with the duly authorized representatives of
9 other jurisdictions, including States, districts,
10 territories and possessions of the United States, and
11 foreign states, provinces, or countries, granting to
12 owners or operators of vehicles duly registered or
13 licensed in such other jurisdictions and for which
14 evidence of compliance is supplied, benefits, privileges
15 and exemption from the payment, wholly or partially, of
16 any taxes, fees or other charges imposed with respect to
17 the ownership or operation of such vehicles by the laws of
18 this State except the tax imposed by the Motor Fuel Tax
19 Law, approved March 25, 1929, as amended, and the tax
20 imposed by the Use Tax Act, approved July 14, 1955, as
21 amended.

22 The Secretary of State may negotiate agreements or
23 arrangements as are in the best interests of this State
24 and the residents of this State pursuant to the policies
25 expressed in this Section taking into consideration the
26 reciprocal exemptions, benefits and privileges available

1 and accruing to residents of this State and vehicles
2 registered in this State.

3 (b) Such reciprocal agreements or arrangements shall
4 provide that vehicles duly registered or licensed in this
5 State when operated upon the highways of such other
6 jurisdictions, shall receive exemptions, benefits and
7 privileges of a similar kind or to a similar degree as
8 extended to vehicles from such jurisdictions in this
9 State.

10 (c) Such agreements or arrangements may also authorize
11 the apportionment of registration or licensing of fleets
12 of vehicles operated interstate, based on any or all of
13 the following factors: ratio of miles in Illinois as
14 against total miles in all jurisdictions; situs or base of
15 a vehicle, or where it is principally garaged or from
16 whence it is principally dispatched or where the movements
17 of such vehicle usually originate; situs of the residence
18 of the owner or operator thereof, or of his principal
19 office or offices, or of his places of business; the
20 routes traversed and whether regular or irregular routes
21 are traversed, and the jurisdictions traversed and served;
22 and such other factors as may be deemed material by the
23 Secretary and the motor vehicle administrators of the
24 other jurisdictions involved in such apportionment, and
25 such vehicles shall likewise be entitled to reciprocal
26 exemptions, benefits and privileges.

(d) Such agreements or arrangements shall also provide that vehicles being operated in intrastate commerce in Illinois shall comply with the registration and licensing laws of this State, except that vehicles which are part of an apportioned fleet may conduct an intrastate operation incidental to their interstate operations. Any motor vehicle properly registered and qualified under any reciprocal agreement or arrangement under this Code and not having a situs or base within Illinois may complete the inbound movement of a trailer or semitrailer to an Illinois destination that was brought into Illinois by a motor vehicle also properly registered and qualified under this Code and not having a situs or base within Illinois, or may complete an outbound movement of a trailer or semitrailer to an out-of-state destination that was originated in Illinois by a motor vehicle also properly registered and qualified under this Code and not having a situs or base in Illinois, only if the operator thereof did not break bulk of the cargo laden in such inbound or outbound trailer or semitrailer. Adding or unloading intrastate cargo on such inbound or outbound trailer or semitrailer shall be deemed as breaking bulk.

(e) Such agreements or arrangements may also provide for the determination of the proper State in which leased vehicles shall be registered based on the factors set out in subsection (c) above and for apportionment of

1 registration of fleets of leased vehicles by the lessee or
2 by the lessor who leases such vehicles to persons who are
3 not fleet operators.

4 (f) Such agreements or arrangements may also include
5 reciprocal exemptions, benefits or privileges accruing
6 under The Illinois Driver Licensing Law or The Driver
7 License Compact.

8 (4) The Secretary of State is further authorized to
9 examine the laws and requirements of other jurisdictions,
10 and, in the absence of a written agreement or arrangement,
11 to issue a written declaration of the extent and nature of
12 the exemptions, benefits and privileges accorded to
13 vehicles of this State by such other jurisdictions, and
14 the extent and nature of reciprocal exemptions, benefits
15 and privileges thereby accorded by this State to the
16 vehicles of such other jurisdictions. A declaration by the
17 Secretary of State may include any, part or all reciprocal
18 exemptions, benefits and privileges or provisions as may
19 be included within an agreement or arrangement.

20 (5) All agreements, arrangements, declarations and
21 amendments thereto, shall be in writing and become
22 effective when signed by the Secretary of State, and
23 copies of all such documents shall be available to the
24 public upon request.

25 (6) The Secretary of State is further authorized to
26 require the display by foreign registered trucks,

1 truck-tractors and buses, entitled to reciprocal benefits,
2 exemptions or privileges hereunder, a reciprocity permit
3 for external display before any such reciprocal benefits,
4 exemptions or privileges are granted. The Secretary of
5 State shall provide suitable application forms for such
6 permit and shall promulgate and publish reasonable rules
7 and regulations for the administration and enforcement of
8 the provisions of this Code including a provision for
9 revocation of such permit as to any vehicle operated
10 wilfully in violation of the terms of any reciprocal
11 agreement, arrangement or declaration or in violation of
12 the Illinois Motor Carrier of Property Law, as amended.

13 (7) (a) Upon the suspension, revocation or denial of
14 one or more of all reciprocal benefits, privileges and
15 exemptions existing pursuant to the terms and provisions
16 of this Code or by virtue of a reciprocal agreement or
17 arrangement or declaration thereunder; or, upon the
18 suspension, revocation or denial of a reciprocity permit;
19 or, upon any action or inaction of the Secretary in the
20 administration and enforcement of the provisions of this
21 Code, any person, resident or nonresident, so aggrieved,
22 may serve upon the Secretary, a petition in writing and
23 under oath, setting forth the grievance of the petitioner,
24 the grounds and basis for the relief sought, and all
25 necessary facts and particulars, and request an
26 administrative hearing thereon. Within 20 days, the

Secretary shall set a hearing date as early as practical. The Secretary may, in his discretion, supply forms for such a petition. The Secretary may require the payment of a fee of not more than \$50 for the filing of any petition, motion, or request for hearing conducted pursuant to this Section. These fees must be deposited into the Secretary of State DUI Administration Fund, a special fund that is hereby created in the State treasury, and, subject to appropriation and as directed by the Secretary of State, shall be used to fund the operation of the hearings department of the Office of the Secretary of State and for no other purpose. The Secretary shall establish by rule the amount and the procedures, terms, and conditions relating to these fees.

(b) The Secretary may likewise, in his discretion and upon his own petition, order a hearing, when in his best judgment, any person is not entitled to the reciprocal benefits, privileges and exemptions existing pursuant to the terms and provisions of this Code or under a reciprocal agreement or arrangement or declaration thereunder or that a vehicle owned or operated by such person is improperly registered or licensed, or that an Illinois resident has improperly registered or licensed a vehicle in another jurisdiction for the purposes of violating or avoiding the registration laws of this State.

(c) The Secretary shall notify a petitioner or any

1 other person involved of such a hearing, by giving at
2 least 10 days notice, in writing, by U.S. Mail, Registered
3 or Certified, or by personal service, at the last known
4 address of such petitioner or person, specifying the time
5 and place of such hearing. Such hearing shall be held
6 before the Secretary, or any person as he may designate,
7 and unless the parties mutually agree to some other county
8 in Illinois, the hearing shall be held in the County of
9 Sangamon or the County of Cook. Appropriate records of the
10 hearing shall be kept, and the Secretary shall issue or
11 cause to be issued, his decision on the case, within 30
12 days after the close of such hearing or within 30 days
13 after receipt of the transcript thereof, and a copy shall
14 likewise be served or mailed to the petitioner or person
15 involved.

16 (d) The actions or inactions or determinations, or
17 findings and decisions upon an administrative hearing, of
18 the Secretary, shall be subject to judicial review in the
19 Circuit Court of the County of Sangamon or the County of
20 Cook, and the provisions of the Administrative Review Law,
21 and all amendments and modifications thereof and rules
22 adopted pursuant thereto, apply to and govern all such
23 reviewable matters.

24 Any reciprocal agreements or arrangements entered into
25 by the Secretary of State or any declarations issued by
26 the Secretary of State pursuant to any law in effect prior

1 to the effective date of this Code are not hereby
2 abrogated, and such shall continue in force and effect
3 until amended pursuant to the provisions of this Code or
4 expire pursuant to the terms or provisions thereof.

5 C. Vehicles purchased out-of-state. A resident of this
6 State who purchases a vehicle in another state and transports
7 the vehicle to Illinois shall apply for registration and
8 certificate of title as soon as practicable, but in no event
9 more than 45 days after the purchase of the vehicle. If an
10 Illinois motorist who purchased a vehicle from an out-of-state
11 licensed dealer is unable to meet the 45-day deadline due to a
12 delay in paperwork from the seller, that motorist may obtain
13 an Illinois temporary registration plate with: (i) proof of
14 purchase; (ii) proof of meeting the Illinois driver's license
15 or identification card requirement; and (iii) proof that
16 Illinois title and registration fees have been paid. If fees
17 have not been paid, the motorist may pay the fees in order to
18 obtain the temporary registration plate. The owner of such a
19 vehicle shall display any temporary permit or registration
20 issued in accordance with Section 3-407.

21 (Source: P.A. 103-209, eff. 1-1-24; 103-899, eff. 8-9-24;
22 104-417, eff. 8-15-25.)

23 (625 ILCS 5/3-808.1)

24 Sec. 3-808.1. Permanent vehicle registration plate.

25 (a) Permanent vehicle registration plates shall be issued,

1 at no charge, to the following:

2 1. Vehicles, other than medical transport vehicles,
3 owned and operated by the State of Illinois or by any State
4 agency financed by funds appropriated by the General
5 Assembly;

6 2. Special disability plates issued to vehicles owned
7 and operated by the State of Illinois or by any State
8 agency financed by funds appropriated by the General
9 Assembly.

10 (b) Permanent vehicle registration plates shall be issued,
11 for a one-time fee of \$8.00, to the following:

12 1. Vehicles, other than medical transport vehicles,
13 operated by or for any county, township or municipal
14 corporation.

15 2. Vehicles owned by counties, townships or municipal
16 corporations for persons with disabilities.

17 3. (Blank). Beginning with the 1991 registration year,
18 ~~county owned vehicles operated by or for any county~~
19 ~~sheriff and designated deputy sheriffs. These registration~~
20 ~~plates shall contain the specific county code and unit~~
21 ~~number.~~

22 4. All-terrain vehicles owned by counties, townships,
23 or municipal corporations and used for law enforcement
24 purposes or used as fire department vehicles when the
25 Manufacturer's Statement of Origin is accompanied with a
26 letter from the original manufacturer or a manufacturer's

1 franchised dealer stating that this all-terrain vehicle
2 has been converted to a street worthy vehicle that meets
3 the equipment requirements set forth in Chapter 12 of this
4 Code.

5 5. Beginning with the 2001 registration year,
6 municipally owned vehicles operated by or for any police
7 department. These registration plates shall contain the
8 designation "municipal police" and shall be numbered and
9 distributed as prescribed by the Secretary of State.

10 6. Beginning with the 2014 registration year,
11 municipally owned, fire district owned, or Mutual Aid Box
12 Alarm System (MABAS) owned vehicles operated by or for any
13 fire department, fire protection district, or MABAS. These
14 registration plates shall display the designation "Fire
15 Department" and shall display the specific fire
16 department, fire district, fire unit, or MABAS division
17 number or letter.

18 7. Beginning with the 2017 registration year, vehicles
19 that do not require a school bus driver permit under
20 Section 6-104 to operate and are not registered under
21 Section 3-617 of this Code, and are owned by a public
22 school district from grades K-12 or a public community
23 college.

24 8. Beginning with the 2017 registration year, vehicles
25 of the first division or vehicles of the second division
26 weighing not more than 8,000 pounds that are owned by a

1 medical facility or hospital of a municipality, county, or
2 township.

3 9. Beginning with the 2020 registration year, 2-axle
4 motor vehicles that (i) are designed and used as buses in a
5 public system for transporting more than 10 passengers;
6 (ii) are used as common carriers in the general
7 transportation of passengers and not devoted to any
8 specialized purpose; (iii) operate entirely within the
9 territorial limits of a single municipality or a single
10 municipality and contiguous municipalities; and (iv) are
11 subject to the regulation of the Illinois Commerce
12 Commission. The owner of a vehicle under this paragraph is
13 exempt from paying a flat weight tax or a mileage weight
14 tax under this Code.

15 10. Beginning with the 2027 registration year,
16 vehicles owned by a municipality or fire protection
17 district operated by or for the emergency medical services
18 (EMS) chief that are eligible for issuance of EMS chief
19 license plates under Section 3-699.26.

20 (b-5) Beginning with the 2016 registration year, permanent
21 vehicle registration plates shall be issued for a one-time fee
22 of \$8.00 to a county, township, or municipal corporation that
23 owns or operates vehicles used for the purpose of community
24 workplace commuting as defined by the Secretary of State by
25 administrative rule. The design and color of the plates shall
26 be wholly within the discretion of the Secretary. The

1 Secretary of State may adopt rules to implement this
2 subsection (b-5).

3 (c) Beginning with the 2012 registration year,
4 county-owned vehicles operated by or for any county sheriff
5 and designated deputy sheriffs that have been issued
6 registration plates under subsection (b) of this Section shall
7 be exempt from any fee for the transfer of registration from
8 one vehicle to another vehicle. Each county sheriff shall
9 report to the Secretary of State any transfer of registration
10 plates from one vehicle to another vehicle operated by or for
11 any county sheriff and designated deputy sheriffs. The
12 Secretary of State shall adopt rules to implement this
13 subsection (c).

14 (c-5) Beginning with the 2014 registration year,
15 municipally owned, fire district owned, or Mutual Aid Box
16 Alarm System (MABAS) owned vehicles operated by or for any
17 fire department, fire protection district, or MABAS that have
18 been issued registration plates under subsection (b) of this
19 Section shall be exempt from any fee for the transfer of
20 registration from one vehicle to another vehicle. Each fire
21 department, fire protection district, of MABAS shall report to
22 the Secretary of State any transfer of registration plates
23 from one vehicle to another vehicle operated by or for any fire
24 department, fire protection district, or MABAS. The Secretary
25 of State shall adopt rules to implement this subsection.

26 (d) Beginning with the 2013 registration year, municipally

1 owned vehicles operated by or for any police department that
2 have been issued registration plates under subsection (b) of
3 this Section shall be exempt from any fee for the transfer of
4 registration from one vehicle to another vehicle. Each
5 municipal police department shall report to the Secretary of
6 State any transfer of registration plates from one vehicle to
7 another vehicle operated by or for any municipal police
8 department. The Secretary of State shall adopt rules to
9 implement this subsection (d).

10 (e) Beginning with the 2016 registration year, any vehicle
11 owned or operated by a county, township, or municipal
12 corporation that has been issued registration plates under
13 this Section is exempt from any fee for the transfer of
14 registration from one vehicle to another vehicle. Each county,
15 township, or municipal corporation shall report to the
16 Secretary of State any transfer of registration plates from
17 one vehicle to another vehicle operated by or for any county,
18 township, or municipal corporation.

19 (f) Beginning with the 2020 registration year, any vehicle
20 owned or operated by a public school district from grades
21 K-12, a public community college, or a medical facility or
22 hospital of a municipality, county, or township that has been
23 issued registration plates under this Section is exempt from
24 any fee for the transfer of registration from one vehicle to
25 another vehicle. Each school district, public community
26 college, or medical facility or hospital shall report to the

1 Secretary any transfer of registration plates from one vehicle
2 to another vehicle operated by the school district, public
3 community college, or medical facility.

4 (g) Beginning with the 2025 registration year, vehicles
5 owned or operated by or for a private or public university
6 police department or a private or public college police
7 department, except for motor driven cycles and all-terrain
8 vehicles, may be registered under subsection (b) of this
9 Section. These registration plates shall contain the
10 designation "university police" or "college police" and shall
11 be numbered and distributed as prescribed by the Secretary of
12 State.

13 (Source: P.A. 103-135, eff. 1-1-24; 104-213, eff. 1-1-26;
14 104-304, eff. 8-15-25; revised 11-21-25.)