

PUB. L. 104-287

This amends 49:32702(8) and 32705 to clarify the re-statement of 15:1982(5) and 1988 by section 1 of the Act of July 5, 1994 (Public Law 103-272, 108 Stat. 1049).

AMENDMENTS

2012—Par. (5). Pub. L. 112-141, which directed insertion of “or system of components” after “instrument”, was executed by making the insertion after “instru-ment” both places it appeared.

1996—Par. (8). Pub. L. 104-287 inserted “any” after “or”.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2012 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 112-141 effective Oct. 1, 2012, see section 3(a) of Pub. L. 112-141, set out as an Effective and Termination Dates of 2012 Amendment note under section 101 of Title 23, Highways.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1996 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 104-287 effective July 5, 1994, see section 8(1) of Pub. L. 104-287, set out as a note under section 5303 of this title.

§ 32703. Preventing tampering

A person may not—

(1) advertise for sale, sell, use, install, or have installed, a device that makes an odometer of a motor vehicle register a mileage different from the mileage the vehicle was driven, as registered by the odometer within the designed tolerance of the manufacturer of the odometer;

(2) disconnect, reset, alter, or have disconnected, reset, or altered, an odometer of a motor vehicle intending to change the mileage registered by the odometer;

(3) with intent to defraud, operate a motor vehicle on a street, road, or highway if the person knows that the odometer of the vehicle is disconnected or not operating; or

(4) conspire to violate this section or section 32704 or 32705 of this title.

(Pub. L. 103-272, §1(e), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 1049; Pub. L. 103-429, §6(33), Oct. 31, 1994, 108 Stat. 4380.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES
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Table with 3 columns: Revised Section, Source (U.S. Code), Source (Statutes at Large). Rows include 32703(1), 32703(2), 32703(3), and 32703(4).

In clause (1), the words “the mileage the vehicle was driven, as registered by the odometer within the designed tolerance of the manufacturer of the odometer” are substituted for “the true mileage driven. For purposes of this section, the true mileage driven is that mileage driven by the vehicle as registered by the odometer within the manufacturer’s designed tolerance” to eliminate unnecessary words.

In clause (3), the words “public” and “road” are added for consistency in this subtitle.

PUB. L. 103-429

This amends 49:32703(3) to correct an error in the codification enacted by section 1 of the Act of July 5, 1994 (Public Law 103-272, 108 Stat. 1049).

AMENDMENTS

1994—Par. (3). Pub. L. 103-429 struck out “public” before “street”.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1994 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 103-429 effective July 5, 1994, see section 9 of Pub. L. 103-429, set out as a note under section 321 of this title.

§ 32704. Service, repair, and replacement

(a) ADJUSTING MILEAGE.—A person may service, repair, or replace an odometer of a motor vehicle if the mileage registered by the odometer remains the same as before the service, repair, or replacement. If the mileage cannot remain the same—

(1) the person shall adjust the odometer to read zero; and

(2) the owner of the vehicle or agent of the owner shall attach a written notice to the left door frame of the vehicle specifying the mileage before the service, repair, or replacement and the date of the service, repair, or replacement.

(b) REMOVING OR ALTERING NOTICE.—A person may not, with intent to defraud, remove or alter a notice attached to a motor vehicle as required by this section.

(Pub. L. 103-272, §1(e), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 1049.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Table with 3 columns: Revised Section, Source (U.S. Code), Source (Statutes at Large). Row includes 32704.

In subsection (b), the text of 15:1987(b)(1) is omitted as surplus.

§ 32705. Disclosure requirements on transfer of motor vehicles

(a)(1) DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS.—Under regulations prescribed by the Secretary of Transportation that include the way in which information is disclosed and retained under this section, a person transferring ownership of a motor vehicle shall give the transferee the following written disclosure:

(A) Disclosure of the cumulative mileage registered on the odometer.

(B) Disclosure that the actual mileage is unknown, if the transferor knows that the odometer reading is different from the number of miles the vehicle has actually traveled.

(2) A person transferring ownership of a motor vehicle may not violate a regulation prescribed under this section or give a false statement to the transferee in making the disclosure required by such a regulation.

(3) A person acquiring a motor vehicle for resale may not accept a written disclosure under this section unless it is complete.

(4)(A) This subsection shall apply to all transfers of motor vehicles (unless otherwise exempted by the Secretary by regulation), except in the case of transfers of new motor vehicles from a vehicle manufacturer jointly to a dealer and a

person engaged in the business of renting or leasing vehicles for a period of 30 days or less.

(B) For purposes of subparagraph (A), the term “new motor vehicle” means any motor vehicle driven with no more than the limited use necessary in moving, transporting, or road testing such vehicle prior to delivery from the vehicle manufacturer to a dealer, but in no event shall the odometer reading of such vehicle exceed 300 miles.

(5) The Secretary may exempt such classes or categories of vehicles as the Secretary deems appropriate from these requirements. Until such time as the Secretary amends or modifies the regulations set forth in 49 CFR 580.6, such regulations shall have full force and effect.

(b) MILEAGE STATEMENT REQUIREMENT FOR LICENSING.—(1) A motor vehicle the ownership of which is transferred may not be licensed for use in a State unless the transferee, in submitting an application to a State for the title on which the license will be issued, includes with the application the transferor’s title and, if that title contains the space referred to in paragraph (3)(A)(iii) of this subsection, a statement, signed and dated by the transferor, of the mileage disclosure required under subsection (a) of this section. This paragraph does not apply to a transfer of ownership of a motor vehicle that has not been licensed before the transfer.

(2)(A) Under regulations prescribed by the Secretary, if the title to a motor vehicle issued to a transferor by a State is in the possession of a lienholder when the transferor transfers ownership of the vehicle, the transferor may use a written power of attorney (if allowed by State law) in making the mileage disclosure required under subsection (a) of this section. Regulations prescribed under this paragraph—

(i) shall prescribe the form of the power of attorney;

(ii) shall provide that the form be printed by means of a secure printing process (or other secure process);

(iii) shall provide that the State issue the form to the transferee;

(iv) shall provide that the person exercising the power of attorney retain a copy and submit the original to the State with a copy of the title showing the restatement of the mileage;

(v) may require that the State retain the power of attorney and the copy of the title for an appropriate period or that the State adopt alternative measures consistent with section 32701(b) of this title, after considering the costs to the State;

(vi) shall ensure that the mileage at the time of transfer be disclosed on the power of attorney document;

(vii) shall ensure that the mileage be restated exactly by the person exercising the power of attorney in the space referred to in paragraph (3)(A)(iii) of this subsection;

(viii) may not require that a motor vehicle be titled in the State in which the power of attorney was issued;

(ix) shall consider the need to facilitate normal commercial transactions in the sale or exchange of motor vehicles; and

(x) shall provide other conditions the Secretary considers appropriate.

(B) Section 32709(a) and (b) applies to a person granting or granted a power of attorney under this paragraph.

(3)(A) A motor vehicle the ownership of which is transferred may not be licensed for use in a State unless the title issued by the State to the transferee—

(i) is produced by means of a secure printing process (or other secure process);

(ii) indicates the mileage disclosure required to be made under subsection (a) of this section; and

(iii) contains a space for the transferee to disclose the mileage at the time of a future transfer and to sign and date the disclosure.

(B) Subparagraph (A) of this paragraph does not require a State to verify, or preclude a State from verifying, the mileage information contained in the title.

(c) LEASED MOTOR VEHICLES.—(1) For a leased motor vehicle, the regulations prescribed under subsection (a) of this section shall require written disclosure about mileage to be made by the lessee to the lessor when the lessor transfers ownership of that vehicle.

(2) Under those regulations, the lessor shall provide written notice to the lessee of—

(A) the lessee’s mileage disclosure requirements under paragraph (1) of this subsection; and

(B) the penalties for failure to comply with those requirements.

(3) The lessor shall retain the disclosures made by a lessee under paragraph (1) of this subsection for at least 4 years following the date the lessor transfers the leased motor vehicle.

(4) If the lessor transfers ownership of a leased motor vehicle without obtaining possession of the vehicle, the lessor, in making the disclosure required by subsection (a) of this section, may indicate on the title the mileage disclosed by the lessee under paragraph (1) of this subsection unless the lessor has reason to believe that the disclosure by the lessee does not reflect the actual mileage of the vehicle.

(d) STATE ALTERNATE VEHICLE MILEAGE DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS.—The requirements of subsections (b) and (c)(1) of this section on the disclosure of motor vehicle mileage when motor vehicles are transferred or leased apply in a State unless the State has in effect alternate motor vehicle mileage disclosure requirements approved by the Secretary. The Secretary shall approve alternate motor vehicle mileage disclosure requirements submitted by a State unless the Secretary decides that the requirements are not consistent with the purpose of the disclosure required by subsection (b) or (c), as the case may be.

(e) AUCTION SALES.—If a motor vehicle is sold at an auction, the auction company conducting the auction shall maintain the following records for at least 4 years after the date of the sale:

(1) the name of the most recent owner of the motor vehicle (except the auction company) and the name of the buyer of the motor vehicle.

(2) the vehicle identification number required under chapter 301 or 331 of this title.

(3) the odometer reading on the date the auction company took possession of the motor vehicle.

(f) APPLICATION AND REVISION OF STATE LAW.—(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, subsections (b)–(e) of this section apply to the transfer of a motor vehicle after April 28, 1989.

(2) If a State requests, the Secretary shall assist the State in revising its laws to comply with subsection (b) of this section. If a State requires time beyond April 28, 1989, to revise its laws to achieve compliance, the Secretary, on request of the State, may grant additional time that the Secretary considers reasonable by publishing a notice in the Federal Register. The notice shall include the reasons for granting the additional time. In granting additional time, the Secretary shall ensure that the State is making reasonable efforts to achieve compliance.

(g) ELECTRONIC DISCLOSURES.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of the Motor Vehicle and Highway Safety Improvement Act of 2012, in carrying out this section, the Secretary shall prescribe regulations permitting any written disclosures or notices and related matters to be provided electronically.

(Pub. L. 103–272, §1(e), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 1049; Pub. L. 103–429, §6(34), Oct. 31, 1994, 108 Stat. 4380; Pub. L. 104–287, §5(62), Oct. 11, 1996, 110 Stat. 3394; Pub. L. 105–178, title VII, §7105, June 9, 1998, 112 Stat. 467; Pub. L. 112–141, div. C, title I, §31205(b), July 6, 2012, 126 Stat. 761.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES
PUB. L. 103–272

| Revised Section | Source (U.S. Code) | Source (Statutes at Large) |
|-----------------|---|--|
| 32705(a) | 15:1988(a). | Oct. 20, 1972, Pub. L. 92–513, §408(a), 86 Stat. 962. |
| | 15:1988(b) (related to false statements). | Oct. 20, 1972, Pub. L. 92–513, §408(b) (related to false statements), 86 Stat. 963; restated July 14, 1976, Pub. L. 94–364, §406, 90 Stat. 983. |
| | 15:1988(c). | Oct. 20, 1972, Pub. L. 92–513, §408(c), 86 Stat. 963; restated July 14, 1976, Pub. L. 94–364, §406, 90 Stat. 984. |
| 32705(b)(1) .. | 15:1988(d)(1)(A), (B). | Oct. 20, 1972, Pub. L. 92–513, §408(d)(1)(A), (B), (2)–(g); added Oct. 28, 1986, Pub. L. 99–579, §2(a), 100 Stat. 3309. |
| 32705(b)(2) .. | 15:1988(d)(1)(C). | Oct. 20, 1972, Pub. L. 92–513, §408(d)(1)(C); added Oct. 31, 1988, Pub. L. 100–561, §401, 102 Stat. 2817; Nov. 28, 1990, Pub. L. 101–641, §7(a), 104 Stat. 4657. |
| | 15:1988 (note). | Nov. 28, 1990, Pub. L. 101–641, §7(b) (last sentence), 104 Stat. 4657. |
| 32705(b)(3) .. | 15:1988(d)(2). | |
| 32705(c) | 15:1988(e). | |
| 32705(d) | 15:1988(f). | |
| 32705(e) | 15:1988(g). | |
| 32705(f) | 15:1988 (note). | Oct. 28, 1986, Pub. L. 99–579, §2(c), 100 Stat. 3310. |

In subsection (a)(1), before clause (A), the words “Not later than 90 days after October 20, 1972” are omitted as executed. In clause (B), the words “if the transferor knows that the mileage registered by the odometer is incorrect” are substituted for “if the odometer reading is known to the transferor to be different from the number of miles the vehicle has actually traveled” to eliminate unnecessary words.

In subsection (b)(2)(A), before clause (i), the words “Under regulations prescribed by the Secretary” are substituted for “prescribed by rule by the Secretary” for consistency in the revised title and because “rule” is synonymous with “regulation”. The words “to a transferor” are added for clarity. The words “before

February 1, 1989” are omitted as expired. The words “in the possession of” are substituted for “physically held by”, and the words “when the transferor transfers ownership of the vehicle” are substituted for “at the time of a transfer of such motor vehicle”, for clarity and consistency. The words “the transferor may” are substituted for “nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prohibit” for clarity and to eliminate unnecessary words. Clause (i) is substituted for “in a form” and clause (ii) is substituted for “in accordance with paragraph (2)(A)(i)” for clarity and consistency. In clause (iii), the words “consistent with the purposes of this Act and the need to facilitate enforcement thereof” are omitted as surplus. In clauses (iv), (v), (viii), and (ix), the amendment made by section 7(a) of the Independent Safety Board Act Amendments of 1990 (Public Law 101–641, 104 Stat. 4657) is restated as amending section 408(d)(1)(C) of the Motor Vehicle and Cost Savings Act (15 U.S.C. 1988(d)(1)(C)) instead of section 408(d)(2)(C) of that Act to reflect the probable intent of Congress. There is no section 408(d)(2)(C) in that Act. Clause (vii) is substituted for “and under reasonable conditions” for clarity and consistency.

In subsection (b)(3)(A), before clause (i), the words “following such transfer” are omitted as surplus. In clause (i), the word “produced” is substituted for “set forth” for clarity. In clause (iii), the words “(in the event of a future transfer)” are omitted as surplus.

In subsection (d), the text of 15:1988(f)(1) (last sentence) is omitted as surplus because of 49:322(a).

In subsection (e), before clause (1), the words “establish and” are omitted as executed.

In subsection (f)(1), the text of section 2(c)(3) of the Truth in Mileage Act of 1986 (Public Law 99–579, 100 Stat. 3311) is omitted as surplus.

PUB. L. 103–429

This amends 49:32705(c)(2)(A) to clarify the restatement of 15:1988(e)(2)(A) by section 1 of the Act of July 5, 1994 (Public Law 103–272, 108 Stat. 1051).

PUB. L. 104–287

This amends 49:32702(8) and 32705 to clarify the restatement of 15:1982(5) and 1988 by section 1 of the Act of July 5, 1994 (Public Law 103–272, 108 Stat. 1049).

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The date of enactment of the Motor Vehicle and Highway Safety Improvement Act of 2012, referred to in subsec. (g), is the date of enactment of title I of div. C of Pub. L. 112–141, which was approved July 6, 2012.

AMENDMENTS

2012—Subsec. (g). Pub. L. 112–141 added subsec. (g).
1998—Subsec. (a)(4), (5). Pub. L. 105–178 added pars. (4) and (5).

1996—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 104–287, §5(62)(A), substituted “Disclosure requirements” for “Written disclosure requirements” in heading and amended text generally. Prior to amendment, text read as follows:

“(1) Under regulations prescribed by the Secretary of Transportation, a person transferring ownership of a motor vehicle shall give the transferee a written disclosure—

“(A) of the cumulative mileage registered by the odometer; or

“(B) that the mileage is unknown if the transferor knows that the mileage registered by the odometer is incorrect.

“(2) A person making a written disclosure required by a regulation prescribed under paragraph (1) of this subsection may not make a false statement in the disclosure.

“(3) A person acquiring a motor vehicle for resale may accept a disclosure under this section only if it is complete.

“(4) The regulations prescribed by the Secretary shall provide the way in which information is disclosed and retained under this section.”

Subsec. (b)(3)(A). Pub. L. 104-287, §5(62)(B), substituted “may not be licensed for use in a State unless” for “may be licensed for use in a State only if” in introductory provisions.

1994—Subsec. (c)(2)(A). Pub. L. 103-429 amended subpar. (A) generally. Prior to amendment, subpar. (A) read as follows: “the mileage disclosure requirements of subsection (a) of this section; and”.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2012 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 112-141 effective Oct. 1, 2012, see section 3(a) of Pub. L. 112-141, set out as an Effective and Termination Dates of 2012 Amendment note under section 101 of Title 23, Highways.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1996 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 104-287 effective July 5, 1994, see section 8(1) of Pub. L. 104-287, set out as a note under section 5303 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1994 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 103-429 effective July 5, 1994, see section 9 of Pub. L. 103-429, set out as a note under section 321 of this title.

REGULATIONS

Pub. L. 103-272, §4(q), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 1371, provided that: “The revision of regulations, referred to in section 32705(b)(2)(A) of title 49, United States Code, as enacted by section 1 of this Act, that is required by section 7 of the Independent Safety Board Act Amendments of 1990 (Public Law 101-641, 104 Stat. 4657) [former 15 U.S.C. 1988(d)(1)(C), 1988 note] shall be prescribed not later than May 28, 1991.”

§ 32706. Inspections, investigations, and records

(a) **AUTHORITY TO INSPECT AND INVESTIGATE.**—Subject to section 32707 of this title, the Secretary of Transportation may conduct an inspection or investigation necessary to carry out this chapter or a regulation prescribed or order issued under this chapter. The Secretary shall cooperate with State and local officials to the greatest extent possible in conducting an inspection or investigation. The Secretary may give the Attorney General information about a violation of this chapter or a regulation prescribed or order issued under this chapter.

(b) **ENTRY, INSPECTION, AND IMPOUNDMENT.**—(1) In carrying out subsection (a) of this section, an officer or employee designated by the Secretary, on display of proper credentials and written notice to the owner, operator, or agent in charge, may—

(A) enter and inspect commercial premises in which a motor vehicle or motor vehicle equipment is manufactured, held for shipment or sale, maintained, or repaired;

(B) enter and inspect noncommercial premises in which the Secretary reasonably believes there is a motor vehicle or motor vehicle equipment that is an object of a violation of this chapter;

(C) inspect that motor vehicle or motor vehicle equipment; and

(D) impound for not more than 72 hours for inspection a motor vehicle or motor vehicle equipment that the Secretary reasonably believes is an object of a violation of this chapter.

(2) An inspection or impoundment under this subsection shall be conducted at a reasonable time, in a reasonable way, and with reasonable

promptness. The written notice may consist of a warrant issued under section 32707 of this title.

(c) **REASONABLE COMPENSATION.**—When the Secretary impounds for inspection a motor vehicle (except a vehicle subject to subchapter I of chapter 135 of this title) or motor vehicle equipment under subsection (b)(1)(D) of this section, the Secretary shall pay reasonable compensation to the owner of the vehicle or equipment if the inspection or impoundment results in denial of use, or reduction in value, of the vehicle or equipment.

(d) **RECORDS AND INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS.**—(1) To enable the Secretary to decide whether a dealer or distributor is complying with this chapter and regulations prescribed and orders issued under this chapter, the Secretary may require the dealer or distributor—

(A) to keep records;

(B) to provide information from those records if the Secretary states the purpose for requiring the information and identifies the information to the fullest extent practicable; and

(C) to allow an officer or employee designated by the Secretary to inspect relevant records of the dealer or distributor.

(2) This subsection and subsection (e)(1)(B) of this section do not authorize the Secretary to require a dealer or distributor to provide information on a regular periodic basis.

(e) **ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY AND CIVIL ACTIONS TO ENFORCE.**—(1) In carrying out this chapter, the Secretary may—

(A) inspect and copy records of any person at reasonable times;

(B) order a person to file written reports or answers to specific questions, including reports or answers under oath; and

(C) conduct hearings, administer oaths, take testimony, and require (by subpoena or otherwise) the appearance and testimony of witnesses and the production of records the Secretary considers advisable.

(2) A witness summoned under this subsection is entitled to the same fee and mileage the witness would have been paid in a court of the United States.

(3) A civil action to enforce a subpoena or order of the Secretary under this subsection may be brought in the United States district court for any judicial district in which the proceeding by the Secretary is conducted. The court may punish a failure to obey an order of the court to comply with the subpoena or order of the Secretary as a contempt of court.

(f) **PROHIBITIONS.**—A person may not fail to keep records, refuse access to or copying of records, fail to make reports or provide information, fail to allow entry or inspection, or fail to permit impoundment, as required under this section.

(Pub. L. 103-272, §1(e), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 1052; Pub. L. 103-429, §6(35), Oct. 31, 1994, 108 Stat. 4380; Pub. L. 105-102, §2(19), Nov. 20, 1997, 111 Stat. 2205.)