

CHAPTER 1104**MOTOR VEHICLE CERTIFICATES OF TITLE – RECYCLERS***S.F. 2137*

AN ACT relating to motor vehicle certificates of title, by eliminating component part reviews, requiring a damage disclosure statement, restricting transfer of certain salvage certificates, defining salvage pools, relating to vehicle recycler license applications, and creating a penalty and providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:

Section 1. Section 321.1, Code Supplement 1991, is amended by adding the following new subsection:

NEW SUBSECTION. 95. "Salvage pool" means the business of selling at auction wrecked or salvage vehicles, as defined in section 321.52.

Sec. 2. Section 321.24, unnumbered paragraph 3, Code Supplement 1991, is amended by striking the unnumbered paragraph and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

The certificate of title shall contain upon its face the identical information required upon the face of the registration receipt. In addition, the certificate of title shall contain a statement of the owner's title, the amount of tax paid pursuant to section 423.7, the name and address of the previous owner, and a statement of all security interests and encumbrances as shown in the application, upon the vehicle described, including the nature of the security interest, date of notation, and name and address of the secured party.

If the prior certificate of title is from another state and indicates that the vehicle was rebuilt the new certificate of title and the registration receipt shall contain the designation of "REBUILT" stamped or printed on its face together with the name of the state issuing the prior title. The designation of "REBUILT" and the name of the other state shall be retained on all subsequent Iowa certificates of title and registration receipts for the vehicle.

If the prior certificate of title is from another state and indicates that the vehicle was junked, an Iowa junking certificate shall be issued according to section 321.52, subsections 2 and 3. If the prior certificate of title from another state indicates that the vehicle is salvaged and not rebuilt or is a salvage certificate of title, an Iowa salvage certificate of title shall be issued and a "SALVAGE" designation shall be retained on all subsequent Iowa certificates of title and registration receipts for the vehicle, except as provided under section 321.52, subsection 4, paragraph "b". The department shall adopt rules to determine the manner in which other states' designations are to be indicated on Iowa titles.

Sec. 3. Section 321.52, subsection 4, Code Supplement 1991, is amended to read as follows:

4. a. A vehicle rebuilder or a motor vehicle dealer licensed under chapter 322, person engaged in the business of buying, selling, or exchanging vehicles of a type required to be registered in this state, upon acquisition of a wrecked or salvage vehicle, shall surrender the certificate of title or manufacturer's or importer's statement of origin properly assigned, together with an application for a salvage certificate of title to the county treasurer of the county of residence of the purchaser or transferee within fourteen fifteen days after the date of assignment of the certificate of title for the wrecked or salvage motor vehicle. This subsection applies only to vehicles with a fair market value of five hundred dollars or more, based on the value before the vehicle became wrecked or salvage. Upon payment of a fee of two dollars, the county treasurer shall issue a salvage certificate of title which shall bear the word "SALVAGE" stamped or printed on the face of the title in a manner prescribed by the department. A salvage certificate of title may be assigned to any person an educational institution, a new motor vehicle dealer licensed under chapter 322, a person engaged in the business of purchasing bodies, parts of bodies, frames or component parts of vehicles for sale as scrap metal, a salvage pool, or an authorized vehicle recycler licensed under chapter 321H. An authorized vehicle recycler licensed under chapter 321H or a new motor vehicle dealer licensed under chapter

322 may assign a salvage certificate of title to any person. A vehicle on which ownership has transferred to an insurer of the vehicle, as a result of a settlement with the owner of the vehicle arising out of damage to, or unrecovered theft of the vehicle, shall be deemed to be a wrecked or salvage vehicle and the insurer shall comply with this subsection to obtain a salvage certificate of title within ~~fourteen~~ fifteen days after the date of assignment of the certificate of title of the vehicle. ~~However, a vehicle that has major damage to four or more component parts as defined in paragraph "b" shall receive a junking certificate of title and shall not thereafter be granted a regular certificate of title.~~

b. When a wrecked or salvage vehicle has been repaired, the owner may apply for a regular certificate of title by paying the appropriate fees and surrendering the salvage certificate of title and a properly executed salvage theft examination certificate. The county treasurer shall issue a regular certificate of title which, ~~commencing September 1, 1988, if the wrecked or salvage vehicle is five model years old or less, shall bear the word "REBUILT" a designation stamped or printed on the face of the title and registration receipt indicating that the vehicle was previously titled on a salvage certificate of title in a form approved by the department. The rebuilt~~ This designation shall be included on every Iowa certificate of title and registration receipt issued thereafter for the vehicle. However, if ownership of a stolen vehicle has been transferred to an insurer organized under the laws of this state or admitted to do business in this state, or if the transfer was the result of a settlement with the owner of the vehicle arising from damage to or the unrecovered theft of the vehicle, and if the insurer certifies to the county treasurer on a form approved by the department that the insurance company has received one or more written estimates which states that the retail cost of repairs to including labor, parts, and other materials of all damage to the vehicle is less than three thousand dollars, the county treasurer shall issue to the insurance company the regular certificate of title and registration receipt without the rebuilt ~~this designation. The county treasurer shall issue a regular certificate of title without the "REBUILT" designation if, before repairs are made, a component parts review has been conducted by a peace officer who has been specially certified and recertified when required by the Iowa law enforcement academy to do salvage theft examinations. The Iowa law enforcement academy shall determine standards for training and certification, conduct training, and may approve alternative training programs which satisfy the academy's standards for training and certification. For the purpose of this section, a wrecked or salvage vehicle shall be considered to have component part damage if there is major damage requiring repairs or replacement of more than two of the vehicle's component parts. A "component part" means the rear clip, cowl, frame or inner structure forward of the cowl, body, cab, front end assembly, front clip, or such other parts which are critical to the safety of the vehicle as determined by rules adopted by the department. The owner shall pay a fee of thirty-five dollars upon the completion of the prerepair component parts review. The agency performing the examinations shall retain twenty-five dollars of the fee and shall pay five dollars of the fee to the department and five dollars of the fee to the Iowa law enforcement academy to provide for the special training, certification, and recertification of officers as required by this subsection. The peace officer conducting the review shall maintain a record of the review and shall forward a copy of the review to the department. The department shall maintain a record of all reviews. If a vehicle does not have component damage as determined in this subsection, the officer conducting the review shall issue a certificate to the owner to that effect. The certificate shall be surrendered to the county treasurer at the time of application for a regular certificate of title and the treasurer shall forward the certificate to the department.~~

The provision of this subsection requiring a component parts review by a peace officer specially certified or recertified by the Iowa law enforcement academy to do salvage theft examinations shall become effective July 1, 1990. Component parts reviews conducted before July 1, 1990, shall be made by peace officers authorized to do so by the state department of transportation or the department of public safety who are qualified, as determined by those agencies, to conduct component parts reviews. The state department of transportation shall adopt

rules in accordance with chapter 17A to carry out this section, including transition rules allowing for component parts reviews prior to July 1, 1990.

Notwithstanding the provisions of this lettered paragraph directing that five dollars of each fee be paid to the Iowa law enforcement academy, for the fiscal period beginning on July 1, 1991, and ending June 30, 1993, such five dollars shall be deposited into the general fund of the state.

c. A salvage theft examination shall be made by a peace officer who has been specially certified and recertified when required by the Iowa law enforcement academy to do salvage theft examinations. The Iowa law enforcement academy shall determine standards for training and certification, conduct training, and may approve alternative training programs which satisfy the academy's standards for training and certification. The owner of the salvage vehicle shall make the vehicle available for examination at a time and location designated by the peace officer doing the examination. The owner may obtain a permit to drive the vehicle to and from the examination location by submitting a repair affidavit to the agency performing the examination stating that the vehicle is reasonably safe for operation and listing the repairs which have been made to the vehicle. The owner must be present for the examination and have available for inspection the salvage title, bills of sale for all essential parts changed, and the repair affidavit. The examination shall be for the purposes of determining whether the vehicle or repair components have been stolen. The examination is not a safety inspection and a signed salvage theft examination certificate shall not be construed by any court of law to be a certification that the vehicle is safe to be operated. There shall be no cause of action against the peace officer or the agency conducting the examination or the county treasurer for failure to discover or note safety defects. If the vehicle passes the theft examination, the peace officer shall indicate that the vehicle passed examination on the salvage theft examination certificate and, with regard to a vehicle which is required to bear the word "REBUILT" stamped or printed on the face of the title, shall permanently identify the vehicle as "rebuilt" on the driver's door jamb or other area on the vehicle as designated by the department. A removal or alteration of this rebuilt identification is a violation of section 321.92. The repair affidavit, permit, and salvage theft examination certificate shall be on controlled forms prescribed and furnished by the department. The owner shall pay a fee of thirty dollars upon completion of the examination. The agency performing the examinations shall retain twenty dollars of the fee and shall pay five dollars of the fee to the department and five dollars of the fee to the Iowa law enforcement academy to provide for the special training, certification, and recertification of officers as required by this subsection.

The provision of this subsection requiring a salvage theft examination by a peace officer specially certified or recertified by the Iowa law enforcement academy to do salvage theft examinations shall become effective July 1, 1989. Salvage theft examinations conducted before July 1, 1989, shall be made by peace officers authorized to do so by the state department of transportation or the department of public safety who are qualified, as determined by those agencies, to conduct salvage theft examinations. The state department of transportation shall adopt rules in accordance with chapter 17A to carry out this section, including transition rules allowing for salvage theft examinations prior to July 1, 1989.

Notwithstanding the provisions of this lettered paragraph directing that five dollars of each fee be paid to the Iowa law enforcement academy, for the fiscal period beginning on July 1, 1991, and ending June 30, 1993, such five dollars shall be deposited into the general fund of the state.

d. For purposes of this subsection a "wrecked or salvage vehicle" means a damaged motor vehicle subject to registration and having a gross vehicle weight rating of less than thirty thousand pounds, for which the cost of repair exceeds fifty percent of the fair market value of the vehicle, as determined in accordance with rules adopted by the department, before it became damaged.

e. A person who titled the person's motor vehicle before May 1, 1989, may have a title issued on that motor vehicle to the person without the "REBUILT" designation, if the person can

show adequate proof that the wrecked or salvage motor vehicle was inspected by a peace officer prior to being repaired prior to September 1, 1988, and show proof through receipts of used parts and photos of the damage to the wrecked or salvage motor vehicle that the motor vehicle did not have major damage requiring repairs or replacement of more than two of the vehicle's component parts. Upon proper application and payment of a two dollar fee, the county treasurer shall issue to the person the title to the person's motor vehicle without the "REBUILT" designation.

Sec. 4. NEW SECTION. 321.69 DAMAGE DISCLOSURE STATEMENT.

1. A certificate of title shall not be issued for a motor vehicle unless a damage disclosure statement has been made by the transferor of the vehicle and is furnished with the application for certificate of title. A damage disclosure statement must be provided by the transferor to the transferee in a transfer of ownership of a motor vehicle. The new certificate of title and registration receipt shall state on the face of the title the total cumulative dollar amount of damage reported by owners prior to the owner listed on the front of the title.

2. The damage disclosure statement required by this section shall, at a minimum, state the total retail dollar amount of all damage to the vehicle during the period of the transferor's ownership of the vehicle. For the purposes of this section, "damage" refers to damage to the vehicle caused by fire, vandalism, collision, weather, falling objects, submersion in water, or flood, where the cost of repair is three thousand dollars or more per incident, but does not include normal wear and tear, glass damage, mechanical repairs or electrical repairs that have not been caused by fire, vandalism, collision, weather, falling objects, submersion in water, or flood. A determination of the amount of damage to a vehicle shall be based on estimates of the retail cost of repairing the vehicle, including labor, parts, and other materials, if the vehicle has not been repaired or on the actual retail cost of repair, including labor, parts, and other materials, if the vehicle has been repaired. Only individual incidents in which the retail cost of repairs is three thousand dollars or more are required to be disclosed by this section. If the vehicle has incurred damage of three thousand dollars or more per incident in more than one incident, the damage amounts must be combined and disclosed as the total of all separate incidents.

3. The damage disclosure statement shall be provided by the transferor to the transferee at or before the time of sale. If the transferor is not a resident of this state the transferee shall not be required to submit a damage disclosure statement from the transferor with the transferee's application for title unless the state of the transferor's residence requires a damage disclosure statement. However, the transferee shall submit a damage disclosure statement with the transferee's application for title indicating whether a salvage or rebuilt title had ever existed for the vehicle, whether the vehicle had incurred prior damage of three thousand dollars or more per incident, and the year, make, and vehicle identification number of the motor vehicle.

4. The department shall retain each damage disclosure statement received and copies shall be available to the public and the attorney general upon request.

5. Authorized vehicle recyclers licensed under chapter 321H and motor vehicle dealers licensed under chapter 322 shall maintain copies of all damage disclosure statements where the recycler or dealer is either the transferor or the transferee for five years following the date of the statement. The copies shall be made available to the department or the attorney general upon request.

6. The damage disclosure statements shall be made on the back of the certificate of title if the title is available to the transferor at the time of sale. If the title is not available at the time of sale or if the face of the transferor's Iowa title contains no indication that the vehicle was previously salvaged or titled as salvaged or rebuilt and the transferor knows or reasonably should know that the vehicle was previously salvaged or titled as salvaged or rebuilt in another state, the transferor shall make the disclosure on a separate disclosure document. The damage disclosure statement forms shall be as approved by the department. The treasurer shall not accept a damage disclosure statement and issue a title unless the back of the title

or separate disclosure document has been fully completed and signed and dated by the transferee and the transferor, if applicable.

7. A person, authorized vehicle recycler licensed under chapter 321H, or motor vehicle dealer licensed under chapter 322 shall not be liable to a subsequent owner of a vehicle because a prior owner gave a false or inaccurate damage disclosure statement or failed to disclose that the vehicle had previously been damaged and repaired or had been titled on a salvage or rebuilt certificate of title unless the person, recycler, or dealer knew or reasonably should have known that the prior owner gave a false or inaccurate damage disclosure statement or failed to disclose that the vehicle had been damaged and repaired or had been titled on a salvage or rebuilt certificate of title.

8. This section does not apply to motor trucks and truck tractors with a gross vehicle weight rating of sixteen thousand pounds or more, vehicles more than nine model years old, vehicles with titles stating the vehicle is salvage or rebuilt, motorcycles, motorized bicycles, and special mobile equipment. The section does apply to motor homes.

9. A person who knowingly makes a false damage disclosure statement commits a fraudulent practice. Failure of a person, authorized vehicle recycler licensed under chapter 321H, or motor vehicle dealer licensed under chapter 322, to comply with any duty imposed by this section constitutes a violation of section 714.16, subsection 2, paragraph "a".

10. The department shall adopt rules as necessary to implement this section.

Sec. 5. Section 321H.4, subsection 2, Code 1991, is amended by adding the following new unnumbered paragraph:

NEW UNNUMBERED PARAGRAPH. The applicant shall specify which business or businesses, as enumerated in subsection 1, the applicant is applying for a license to engage in. An applicant shall have or demonstrate that the applicant will have the facilities and equipment necessary to engage in the business or businesses for which the applicant is applying for a license. The license shall specify which business or businesses the applicant has been authorized to engage in.

Sec. 6. Section 4 of this Act takes effect January 1, 1993. If, after the department has made a reasonable effort to implement section 4 of this Act by January 1, 1993, the department cannot do so, the department may extend the effective date of section 4 of this Act until March 1, 1993. All other sections of this Act take effect July 1, 1992.

Approved April 21, 1992