



State of Tennessee

PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 963

SENATE BILL NO. 2915

By Bailey, Bowling, Yager

Substituted for: House Bill No. 1805

By Butler, Whitson, Warner, Sherrell

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 55, Chapter 4, relative to vehicle registration.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. This act is known and may be cited as the "Ethan Wade Walls Act".

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 55, Chapter 4, Part 1, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

(a) As used in this section, "eligible operator" means:

(1) A person who owns and operates a freight motor vehicle registered pursuant to § 55-4-113(a)(2)(E)-(K); or

(2) A person who operates a freight motor vehicle registered pursuant to § 55-4-113(a)(2)(E)-(K) and who owns fifty-one percent (51%) or more of the stock in the entity that owns the freight motor vehicle.

(b) Upon the death of an eligible operator, in order to secure a refund of the unused portion of the registration fee paid, the certificate of registration and related license plate must be surrendered to, and a copy of the death certificate of the deceased eligible operator must be submitted to, the department.

(c) Within thirty (30) days following receipt of the surrendered certificate and plate, death certificate, and any form as may be required by the department, the department shall issue a refund of the unused portion of the registration fee paid, which is proportionate to the number of full months remaining in the registration period for which registration was issued, to the surviving spouse of the deceased eligible operator or the personal representative of the deceased eligible operator's estate.

(d) A refund is limited to the unused portions of the registration fees paid for no more than three (3) freight motor vehicles of the eligible operator.

(e) The department may prescribe the form and manner of submitting any proof or documentation required by this section.

(f) This section does not apply to refunds of another state's apportioned registration fees governed by a reciprocity agreement.

SECTION 3. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it, and applies retroactively to deaths of eligible operators occurring on or after June 1, 2023.

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PASSED: April 23, 2024



RANDY McNALLY
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE



CAMERON SEXTON, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED this 9th day of May 2024



BILL LEE, GOVERNOR