

SENATE BILL 1597

By Briggs

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 55,
relative to certificates of ownership and other
evidence of title.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-3-209, is amended by adding a
the following as a new subsection (d) and redesignating existing subsection (d) and the
remaining subsections accordingly:

(d)

(1) If an insurance company or a salvage pool operator authorized by the insurance company is unable to obtain the properly endorsed certificate of ownership or other evidence of ownership acceptable to the department within thirty (30) calendar days following the acceptance by the owner of an offer of an amount in settlement of a total loss, the insurance company or salvage pool operator, on a form provided by the department and signed under penalty of perjury, may request the department to issue a salvage certificate for the vehicle. The request must include written confirmation by the requestor that the insurance company has paid the claim and that the requester has made at least two (2) written attempts via commercial delivery service with evidence of delivery to the last known address of the owner to obtain the certificate of ownership or other acceptable evidence of title and must include the fee as set by the department.

(2) The department, upon receipt of the certificate of ownership, other evidence of title, or properly executed request described in subdivision (d)(1) and the fee, shall issue a lien-free salvage certificate for the vehicle.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-3-201, is amended by adding the following as a new, appropriately designated subdivision:

() "Salvage pool operator" means a person who engages in the business of selling salvage motor vehicles at auction, including wholesale auction, or otherwise.

SECTION 3. For purposes of promulgating rules, this act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it. For all other purposes, this act shall take effect October 1, 2020, the public welfare requiring it.