

HOUSE No. 2514

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, March 4, 1955.

The committee on Highways and Motor Vehicles, to whom was referred the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 576) of the Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation Inc. for extending the radius to thirty-five miles from the farm within which farmers may operate certain motor vehicles registered by them, report the accompanying bill (House, No. 2514).

For the committee,

JOHN BROX.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Fifty-Five.

AN ACT ELIMINATING THE RADIUS WITHIN WHICH FARM VEHICLES MAY BE OPERATED ON "F" PLATES AND DEFINING FARMING FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS ACT.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 5 of chapter 90 of the General
2 Laws, as most recently amended by section 1 of chapter
3 377 of the acts of 1952, is hereby further amended by
4 striking out said section and substituting therefor the
5 following section:—

6 *Section 5.* Every manufacturer, dealer, repairman,
7 owner-repairman, transporter and farmer, instead of
8 registering each motor vehicle or trailer owned or con-
9 trolled by him, may make application for a general
10 distinguishing number or mark, and the registrar, if
11 satisfied of the facts stated in the application, may issue
12 to the applicant a certificate of registration containing
13 the name and business address of the applicant and the
14 general distinguishing number or mark assigned to him
15 and made in such form and containing such further in-
16 formation as the registrar may determine. All motor
17 vehicles or trailers owned or controlled by such manu-
18 facturer, dealer or repairman, and all trucks except
19 those used in the regular delivery substantially on a
20 daily schedule for sale of farm products, tractors, trailers,
21 or self-propelled agricultural implements, owned or con-
22 trolled by a farmer, and equipped with rubber tires,
23 shall be regarded as registered under the general distin-
24 guishing number or mark assigned to him until sold, or
25 let for hire, or loaned for a period of more than five suc-
26 cessive days, except that any vehicle owned or controlled

27 by a farmer shall be deemed to be registered under the
28 provisions of this section only when it is operated within
29 the commonwealth, and all motor vehicles or trailers
30 owned by such owner-repairman which are in the process
31 of being repaired, altered, equipped or transferred from
32 one location to another, and which are not being used
33 during such time in the operation of the principal busi-
34 ness of said owner-repairman, shall be regarded as regis-
35 tered under the general distinguishing number or mark
36 assigned to him, and all motor vehicles which are under
37 the control of, but not owned by, such transporter while
38 being delivered by him under their own power shall be
39 regarded as registered under the general distinguishing
40 number or mark assigned to him; provided, that num-
41 ber plates, furnished as hereinafter provided, are properly
42 displayed thereon. The registrar shall, upon payment of
43 the fee provided in section thirty-three, furnish at his
44 office to every manufacturer, dealer, repairman, owner-
45 repairman, transporter and farmer whose vehicles are
46 registered in accordance with this section, such number
47 of pairs of number plates as he may request in writing,
48 of suitable design, having displayed upon them the reg-
49 ister number which is assigned to the vehicles of such
50 manufacturer, dealer, repairman, owner-repairman,
51 transporter or farmer, with a different letter or letters
52 or mark on each pair of number plates, and, in addition,
53 the registrar shall furnish to every transporter with each
54 pair of number plates a corresponding certificate of regis-
55 tration. Number plates furnished hereunder shall, except
56 as provided in section nine, be valid only for the year for
57 which they are issued. Every registration under this
58 section shall expire at midnight on December thirty-first
59 of each year. The word "dealer", for the purposes of
60 the registration of motor vehicles or trailers under any
61 provision of this chapter, may include, in the discretion
62 of the registrar, a person who is engaged in the business
63 of financing the purchase of or insuring motor vehicles,
64 but only in respect to such vehicles as such person may
65 take in possession by foreclosure or subrogation of title,

66 and all the provisions of this chapter relating to certifi-
67 cates of registration of dealers shall apply to certificates
68 issued to such a person under this provision.

1 SECTION 2. Section 1 of said chapter 90, as amended,
2 is hereby further amended by inserting after the definition
3 of "Farmer" the following definition:— "Farming",
4 Tillage of or use of the soil to raise food for the use of
5 man or beast, and the raising of tobacco.