

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center

H.B. 89
By: Gutierrez (Sibley)
Economic Development
5/13/1999
Engrossed

DIGEST

Currently, the penalty for a late vehicle registration is 20 percent of the total amount due regardless of how late the penalty is paid. Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) surveys indicate that an average of four percent of the vehicles being driven on Texas highways have invalid vehicle registrations and the average delinquent registration occurs three to four months after the due date. H.B. 89 sets forth guidelines regarding a delinquent registration of a motor vehicle.

PURPOSE

As proposed, H.B. 89 sets forth guidelines regarding a delinquent registration fee of a motor vehicle.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

Rulemaking authority is granted to the Texas Department of Transportation in SECTION 1 (Section 502.176(f), Transportation Code) of this bill.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Section 502.176, Transportation Code, as follows:

Sec. 502.176. New heading: DELINQUENT REGISTRATION FEE. Requires a tax assessor collector that determines that an applicant for registration for which payment of the registration fee is delinquent has provided sufficient acceptable evidence to the assessor-collector and that the application complies with the other requirements for registration under this chapter to register the vehicle for a 12-month period that ends on the last day of the 11th month after the month in which the registration occurs under this subsection. Provides that the registration period for vehicles registered in accordance with Sections 502.164, 502.167, 502.203, 502.255, 502.267, 502.277, 502.278, 502.293, as added by Chapter 1222, Acts of the 75th Legislature, Regular Session, 1997, and 502.295, as added by Chapter 625, Acts of the 75th Legislature, Regular Session, 1997, will end on the annual registration date, and the registration fee will be prorated. Require that a county-assessor-collector determines an applicant for registration that is delinquent has not provided evidence acceptable to the assessor-collector sufficient to establishing good reason for delinquent registration but that the application complies with the other requirements for registration under this chapter to register the vehicle for a 12-month period without changing the initial month of registration. Authorizes a person who has been arrested or received a citation for violation of Section 502.402 to register the vehicle being operated at the time of the offense with the county assessor-collector for a 12-month period without change to the initial month of registration only if the person takes certain action. Requires the county assessor-collector to adopt a list of evidentiary items sufficient to establish good reason under that subsection. Requires this list of evidentiary items adopted under this section to allow for delinquent registration under Subsection (b) because or certain actions. Requires the TxDOT to adopt, by rule procedures to implement this section in connection with the delinquent registration of a vehicle registered directly with the TxDOT.

SECTION 2. Repealer: Section 502.158(f), Transportation Code (regarding an application for registration filed)

SECTION 3. Effective date: September 1, 1999.

SECTION 4. Emergency clause.