

SUBJECT: Requiring a system related to certain vehicle registration information

COMMITTEE: Transportation — committee substitute recommended

VOTE: 12 ayes — Canales, E. Thompson, Ashby, Davis, Harris, Landgraf,
Lozano, Martinez, Ortega, Perez, Rogers, Smithee

1 nay — Bucy

WITNESSES: For — Ruben Gonzalez, El Paso County; (*Registered, but did not testify:*
Melissa Shannon, Bexar County Commissioners Court; Adam Haynes,
Conference of Urban Counties; Daniel Collins, El Paso County; Thamara
Narvaez, Harris County Commissioners Court; Julie Wheeler, Travis
County Commissioners Court; Susana Carranza; Samantha Chang; Idona
Griffith; Linda Guy; Gregg Vunderink)

Against — Terri Hall, Texas TURF; Texans for Toll-free Highways; Don
Dixon

On — Shay Luedeke, Tax Assessor-Collector Association of Texas;
(*Registered, but did not testify:* Stefan Krisch, Texas Department of Motor
Vehicles)

BACKGROUND: Under Transportation Code sec. 502.010, a county assessor-collector or
the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (TxDMV) may refuse to register
a vehicle if the assessor-collector or TxDMV receives information that the
owner of the vehicle owes the county money for a fine, fee, or tax that is
past due or failed to appear in connection with a complaint, citation,
information, or indictment in a court in the county in which a criminal
proceeding is pending against the owner.

It has been noted that while both county tax assessor-collectors and
TxDMV can refuse to register or renew the registration of a vehicle for
money owed or failure to appear in court, TxDMV does not have the
resources to enforce payment for past due matters and those individuals
owing money are still able to renew their registration online. Some have

called for TxDMV to create a real-time online database.

DIGEST:

CSHB 2306 would require that if the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (TxDMV) determined that a county assessor-collector was authorized to refuse to register a vehicle, the vehicle could not be registered through an online system designated by TxDMV for use by county assessor-collectors or an online system available to the public.

The bill would require TxDMV to develop and implement a system through which counties could provide to the department information needed to make the determination. The system would have to verify in real time whether a vehicle owner owed the county money or had failed to appear in court by searching against the owner's driver's license number, date of birth, or other information. The system also would have to be used for vehicle registrations conducted through TxDMV's website. TxDMV would be required to implement the system no later than September 1, 2022.

TxDmv would be authorized to collect information necessary to implement the bill's provisions, and would not be able to disclose any personal identifying information it collected.

Provisions of the bill requiring implementation by September 1, 2022, would take effect September 1, 2021.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2022, and would apply only to an application for vehicle registration or registration renewal received by TxDMV on or after that date.

NOTES:

According to the Legislative Budget Board, the bill would make no appropriation but could provide the legal basis for an appropriation of funds to implement the bill's provisions.