

By: Goodwin

H.B. No. 795

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the designation of highway safety corridors; increasing a fine.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 201.905(b), Transportation Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b) A program under this section may also include literature distributed to the public by the department concerning:

(1) the program established under this section; and

(2) highway safety corridors designated under Section 201.9051.

SECTION 2. Subchapter K, Chapter 201, Transportation Code, is amended by adding Section 201.9051 to read as follows:

Sec. 201.9051. HIGHWAY SAFETY CORRIDOR. (a) The department shall designate as a highway safety corridor a portion of a roadway containing:

(1) a site described by Section 201.905, regardless of whether the department has established the program under that section; or

(2) a site with a high number of traffic fatalities, as identified by the governing body of the municipality or county in whose jurisdiction the site is located.

(b) The department shall erect a sign at each end of the highway safety corridor and at appropriate intermediate sites along

1 the corridor:

2 (1) indicating that it is a highway safety corridor;

3 and

4 (2) stating "Fines double: highway safety corridor."

5 (c) The department may include on the same sign the  
6 information required for:

7 (1) a highway safety corridor under this section; and

8 (2) a traffic safety sign under Section 201.905(a).

9 (d) The commission by rule shall establish processes for the  
10 governing body of a municipality or county to:

11 (1) identify sites with high numbers of traffic  
12 fatalities; and

13 (2) inform the department of sites identified under  
14 Subdivision (1) for designation as a highway safety corridor.

15 SECTION 3. Subchapter D, Chapter 542, Transportation Code,  
16 is amended by adding Section 542.4046 to read as follows:

17 Sec. 542.4046. FINE FOR OFFENSE IN HIGHWAY SAFETY CORRIDOR.

18 (a) In this section, "highway safety corridor" means a portion of a  
19 roadway designated by the department in accordance with Section  
20 201.9051.

21 (b) If an offense under this subtitle, other than an offense  
22 under Chapter 548 or 552 or Section 545.412 or 545.413, is committed  
23 in a highway safety corridor:

24 (1) the minimum fine applicable to the offense is  
25 twice the minimum fine that would be applicable to the offense if it  
26 were committed outside a highway safety corridor; and

27 (2) the maximum fine applicable to the offense is

1 twice the maximum fine that would be applicable to the offense if it  
2 were committed outside a highway safety corridor.

3 SECTION 4. As soon as practicable after the effective date  
4 of this Act, the Texas Department of Transportation by rule shall  
5 establish the processes required by Section 201.9051(d),  
6 Transportation Code, as added by this Act.

7 SECTION 5. The change in law made by this Act applies only  
8 to an offense committed on or after the effective date of this Act.  
9 An offense committed before the effective date of this Act is  
10 covered by the law in effect immediately before the effective date  
11 of this Act, and the former law is continued in effect for that  
12 purpose. For purposes of this section, an offense was committed  
13 before the effective date of this Act if any element of the offense  
14 was committed before that date.

15 SECTION 6. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.