

By: Fierro

H.B. No. 2306

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to the denial of the registration of a motor vehicle based  
3 on certain information provided by a county to the Texas Department  
4 of Motor Vehicles.

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

6 SECTION 1. Sections 502.010(a), (b), (c), (f), and (f-1),  
7 Transportation Code, are amended to read as follows:

8 (a) Except as otherwise provided by this section, a county  
9 assessor-collector may, and ~~[or]~~ the department shall, ~~[may]~~ refuse  
10 to register a motor vehicle if the assessor-collector or the  
11 department receives information that the owner of the vehicle:

12 (1) owes the county money for a fine, fee, or tax that  
13 is past due; or

14 (2) failed to appear in connection with a complaint,  
15 citation, information, or indictment in a court in the county in  
16 which a criminal proceeding is pending against the owner.

17 (b) The ~~[A county may contract with the]~~ department shall  
18 develop and implement a system through which counties may ~~[to]~~  
19 provide information to the department necessary to make a  
20 determination under Subsection (a). The system developed under  
21 this section must:

22 (1) verify in real time the information described by  
23 Subsection (a) by searching against the vehicle owner's driver's  
24 license number, date of birth, or other information provided to the

1 department; and

2 (2) be used for the registration of a vehicle  
3 conducted through the department's Internet website.

4 (c) A county that provides information [~~has a contract~~]  
5 under Subsection (b) shall immediately notify the department  
6 regarding a person for whom the county assessor-collector or the  
7 department has refused to register a motor vehicle on:

8 (1) the person's payment or other means of discharge,  
9 including a waiver, of the past due fine, fee, or tax; or

10 (2) perfection of an appeal of the case contesting  
11 payment of the fine, fee, or tax.

12 (f) Except as otherwise provided by this section, a county  
13 [~~that has a contract under Subsection (b)~~] may impose an additional  
14 reimbursement fee of \$20 to:

15 (1) a person who fails to pay a fine, fee, or tax to the  
16 county by the date on which the fine, fee, or tax is due; or

17 (2) a person who fails to appear in connection with a  
18 complaint, citation, information, or indictment in a court in which  
19 a criminal proceeding is pending against the owner.

20 (f-1) The additional reimbursement fee may be used only to  
21 reimburse [~~the department or~~] the county assessor-collector for its  
22 expenses for providing services under this section [~~the contract~~],  
23 or another county department for expenses related to services under  
24 this section [~~the contract~~].

25 SECTION 2. Section 502.010(e), Transportation Code, is  
26 repealed.

27 SECTION 3. The Texas Department of Motor Vehicles shall

1 implement the system required by Section 502.010(b),  
2 Transportation Code, as amended by this Act, not later than  
3 September 1, 2022.

4 SECTION 4. Section 502.010, Transportation Code, as amended  
5 by this Act, applies only to an application for motor vehicle  
6 registration or registration renewal received by the Texas  
7 Department of Motor Vehicles on or after the effective date of this  
8 Act. An application for registration or registration renewal that  
9 was received before the effective date of this Act is governed by  
10 the law in effect on the date the application was received, and the  
11 former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

12 SECTION 5. (a) Except as provided by Subsection (b) of this  
13 section, this Act takes effect September 1, 2022.

14 (b) Section 3 of this Act takes effect September 1, 2021.