

By: Wu

H.B. No. 497

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the display of a license plate only on the rear of a motor vehicle; authorizing a fee.

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

SECTION 1. Section 504.010, Transportation Code, is amended by adding Subsections (d) and (e) to read as follows:

(d) Rules adopted under Subsection (c) must:

(1) authorize a motor vehicle to display only a rear license plate if the applicant for the vehicle's registration pays to the department an annual fee of \$50; and

(2) require a motor vehicle that displays only a rear license plate as authorized by Subdivision (1) to display on the vehicle's windshield a distinctive insignia issued by the department for validation of that authorization.

(e) The department shall deposit a fee collected under Subsection (d) to the credit of the state highway fund.

SECTION 2. Sections 504.943(a) and (d), Transportation Code, are amended to read as follows:

(a) Except as provided by Subsection (b), a person commits an offense if the person operates on a public highway, during a registration period, a motor vehicle that does not:

(1) display two license plates that:

(A) [~~1~~] have been assigned by the department for the period; and

1 (B) [~~(2)~~] comply with department rules regarding
2 the placement of license plates; or

3 (2) display:

4 (A) a rear license plate that:

5 (i) has been assigned by the department for
6 the period; and

7 (ii) complies with department rules
8 regarding the placement of a rear license plate; and

9 (B) a windshield insignia described by Section
10 504.010(d) that complies with department rules.

11 (d) A court may dismiss a charge brought under Subsection
12 (a)(1)(A), (a)(2)(A)(i), or (a)(2)(B) [~~(a)(1)~~] if the defendant:

13 (1) remedies the defect before the defendant's first
14 court appearance; and

15 (2) pays a reimbursement fee not to exceed \$10.

16 SECTION 3. The change in law made by this Act applies only
17 to an offense committed on or after the effective date of this Act.
18 An offense committed before the effective date of this Act is
19 governed by the law in effect on the date the offense was committed,
20 and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose. For
21 purposes of this section, an offense was committed before the
22 effective date of this Act if any element of the offense occurred
23 before that date.

24 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.