

By: Noble

H.B. No. 2195

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to wrong, fictitious, altered, or obscured license plates;
3 increasing a criminal penalty.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 504.945, Transportation Code, is amended
6 by amending Subsection (b) and adding Subsection (f) to read as
7 follows:

8 (b) Except as provided by Subsections [~~Subsection~~] (e) and
9 (f), an offense under Subsection (a) is a misdemeanor punishable by
10 a fine of not more than \$200, unless it is shown at the trial of the
11 offense that the owner knowingly altered or made illegible the
12 letters, numbers, and other identification marks, in which case the
13 offense is a Class B misdemeanor.

14 (f) An offense under Subsection (a)(7)(C) is a misdemeanor
15 punishable by a fine of not more than \$300, except that the offense
16 is:

17 (1) a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not more than
18 \$600 if it is shown on the trial of the offense that the person has
19 been previously convicted of an offense under Subsection (a)(7)(C);

20 or

21 (2) a Class B misdemeanor if it is shown on the trial
22 of the offense that the person has been previously convicted two or
23 more times of an offense under Subsection (a)(7)(C).

24 SECTION 2. Section 548.051(a), Transportation Code, is

1 amended to read as follows:

2 (a) A motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, or
3 mobile home, registered in this state, must have the following
4 items inspected at an inspection station or by an inspector:

5 (1) tires;

6 (2) wheel assembly;

7 (3) safety guards or flaps, if required by Section
8 [547.606](#);

9 (4) brake system, including power brake unit;

10 (5) steering system, including power steering;

11 (6) lighting equipment;

12 (7) horns and warning devices;

13 (8) mirrors;

14 (9) windshield wipers;

15 (10) sunscreening devices, unless the vehicle is
16 exempt from sunscreen device restrictions under Section [547.613](#);

17 (11) front seat belts in vehicles on which seat belt
18 anchorages were part of the manufacturer's original equipment;

19 (12) exhaust system;

20 (13) exhaust emission system;

21 (14) fuel tank cap, using pressurized testing
22 equipment approved by department rule; ~~and~~

23 (15) emissions control equipment as designated by
24 department rule; and

25 (16) for purposes of Section [548.104\(d\)\(3\)](#), each
26 license plate required to be displayed on the vehicle.

27 SECTION 3. Section [548.104\(d\)](#), Transportation Code, is

1 amended to read as follows:

2 (d) An inspection station or inspector may not issue a
3 passing vehicle inspection report for a vehicle equipped with:

4 (1) a sunscreening device prohibited by Section
5 547.613, except that the department by rule shall provide
6 procedures for issuance of a passing vehicle inspection report for
7 a vehicle exempt under Section 547.613(c); ~~or~~

8 (2) a compressed natural gas container unless the
9 owner demonstrates in accordance with department rules proof:

10 (A) that:

11 (i) the container has met the inspection
12 requirements under 49 C.F.R. Section 571.304; and

13 (ii) the manufacturer's recommended service
14 life for the container, as stated on the container label required by
15 49 C.F.R. Section 571.304, has not expired; or

16 (B) that the vehicle is a fleet vehicle for which
17 the fleet operator employs a technician certified to inspect the
18 container; or

19 (3) a license plate prohibited by Section 504.945.

20 SECTION 4. The change in law made by this Act applies only
21 to an offense committed on or after the effective date of this Act.
22 An offense committed before the effective date of this Act is
23 governed by the law in effect on the date the offense was committed,
24 and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose. For
25 purposes of this section, an offense was committed before the
26 effective date of this Act if any element of the offense was
27 committed before that date.

1 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.