

By: Guillen

H.B. No. 3224

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the status of the registration of a vehicle after a failure to establish financial responsibility.

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

SECTION 1. The heading to Subchapter H, Chapter 601, Transportation Code, is amended to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER H. FAILURE TO MAINTAIN EVIDENCE OF FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY; SUSPENSION OF DRIVER'S LICENSE [~~AND MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION~~]

SECTION 2. The heading to Section 601.231, Transportation Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 601.231. SUSPENSION OF DRIVER'S LICENSE [~~AND VEHICLE REGISTRATION~~].

SECTION 3. Section 601.231(a), Transportation Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) If a person is convicted of an offense under Section 601.191 and a prior conviction of that person under that section has been reported to the department by a magistrate or the judge or clerk of a court, the department shall suspend the driver's license [~~and vehicle registrations~~] of the person unless the person files and maintains evidence of financial responsibility with the department until the second anniversary of the date of the subsequent conviction.

SECTION 4. Section 601.232, Transportation Code, is amended

1 to read as follows:

2           Sec. 601.232. NOTICE OF SUSPENSION. (a) The department  
3 shall send in a timely manner a notice to each person whose driver's  
4 license is [~~and vehicle registrations are~~] suspended under Section  
5 601.231.

6           (b) The notice must state that the person's driver's license  
7 is [~~and registration are~~] suspended and that the person may apply  
8 for reinstatement of the license [~~and vehicle registration~~] or  
9 issuance of a new license [~~and registration~~] as provided by  
10 Sections 601.162 and 601.376.

11           SECTION 5. Section 601.233(a), Transportation Code, is  
12 amended to read as follows:

13           (a) A citation for an offense under Section 601.191 issued  
14 as a result of Section 601.053 must include, in type larger than  
15 other type on the citation, the following statement:

16 "A second or subsequent conviction of an offense under the Texas  
17 Motor Vehicle Safety Responsibility Act will result in the  
18 suspension of your driver's license [~~and motor vehicle~~  
19 ~~registration~~] unless you file and maintain evidence of financial  
20 responsibility with the Department of Public Safety for two years  
21 from the date of conviction. The department may waive the  
22 requirement to file evidence of financial responsibility if you  
23 file satisfactory evidence with the department showing that at the  
24 time this citation was issued, the vehicle was covered by a motor  
25 vehicle liability insurance policy or that you were otherwise  
26 exempt from the requirements to provide evidence of financial  
27 responsibility."

1           SECTION 6. The change in law made by this Act applies only  
2 to a vehicle registration suspended for an offense committed on or  
3 after the effective date of this Act. A vehicle registration  
4 suspended for an offense committed before the effective date of  
5 this Act is governed by the law in effect on the date the offense was  
6 committed, and the former law is continued in effect for that  
7 purpose. For purposes of this section, an offense was committed  
8 before the effective date of this Act if any element of the offense  
9 occurred before that date.

10           SECTION 7. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.