

By: Dutton

H.B. No. 76

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to an offense involving a motor vehicle with an altered
3 license plate.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 502.409(a), Transportation Code, as
6 amended by Section 2, Chapter 837, Acts of the 78th Legislature,
7 Regular Session, 2003, is amended to read as follows:

8 (a) A person commits an offense if the person attaches to or
9 displays on a motor vehicle a number plate or registration insignia
10 that:

11 (1) is assigned to a different motor vehicle;

12 (2) is assigned to the vehicle under any other motor
13 vehicle law other than by the department;

14 (3) is assigned for a registration period other than
15 the registration period in effect;

16 (4) is fictitious;

17 (5) has letters, numbers, or other identification
18 marks that because of blurring or reflective matter are not plainly
19 visible at all times during daylight;

20 (6) has an attached illuminated device or sticker,
21 decal, emblem, or other insignia that is not authorized by law and
22 that interferes with the readability of the letters or numbers on
23 the plate, not including ~~or~~ the name of the state in which the
24 vehicle is registered; or

1 (7) has a coating, covering, or protective material
2 that:

3 (A) distorts angular visibility or
4 detectability; or

5 (B) alters or obscures:

6 (i) the letters or numbers on the plate, not
7 including the name of the state in which the vehicle is registered;

8 or

9 (ii) the color of the plate [~~, or another original~~
10 ~~design feature of the plate~~].

11 SECTION 2. (a) The change in law made by this Act applies
12 only to an offense committed on or after the effective date of this
13 Act. For the purposes of this section, an offense is committed
14 before the effective date of this Act if any element of the offense
15 occurs before that date.

16 (b) An offense committed before the effective date of this
17 Act is governed by the law in effect when the offense was committed,
18 and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

19 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
20 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
21 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
22 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
23 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the last day of the
24 legislative session.