

By: Lindsay

S.B. No. 439

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

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AN ACT

relating to an offense involving a motor vehicle with an altered or obscured license plate.

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

SECTION 1. The heading to Section 502.409, Transportation Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 502.409. WRONG, FICTITIOUS, ALTERED, OR OBSCURED [~~UNCLEAN~~] LICENSE PLATE.

SECTION 2. Subsection (a), Section 502.409, Transportation Code, is amended to read as follows:

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

- (1) is assigned to a different motor vehicle;
- (2) is assigned to the vehicle under any other motor vehicle law other than by the department;
- (3) is assigned for a registration period other than the registration period in effect;
- (4) is fictitious;
- (5) has letters, numbers, or other identification marks that because of blurring or reflective matter are not plainly visible at all times during daylight;
- (6) has an attached illuminated device or [~~is a~~] sticker, decal, emblem, or other insignia that is not authorized by

1 law and that interferes with the readability of the letters or  
2 numbers on the plate or the name of the state in which the vehicle is  
3 registered; or

4 (7) has a coating, covering, or protective material  
5 that:

6 (A) distorts angular visibility or  
7 detectability; or

8 (B) alters or obscures the letters or numbers on  
9 the plate, the color of the plate, or another original design  
10 feature of the plate.

11 SECTION 3. (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 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2003.