

1-1 By: Lindsay S.B. No. 439  
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed February 11, 2003;  
1-3 February 17, 2003, read first time and referred to Committee on  
1-4 Infrastructure Development and Security; March 10, 2003, reported  
1-5 favorably by the following vote: Yeas 9, Nays 0; March 10, 2003,  
1-6 sent to printer.)

1-7 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
1-8 AN ACT

1-9 relating to an offense involving a motor vehicle with an altered or  
1-10 obscured license plate.

1-11 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-12 SECTION 1. The heading to Section 502.409, Transportation  
1-13 Code, is amended to read as follows:

1-14 Sec. 502.409. WRONG, FICTITIOUS, ALTERED, OR OBSCURED  
1-15 [~~UNCLEAN~~] LICENSE PLATE.

1-16 SECTION 2. Subsection (a), Section 502.409, Transportation  
1-17 Code, is amended to read as follows:

1-18 (a) A person commits an offense if the person attaches to or  
1-19 displays on a motor vehicle a number plate or registration insignia  
1-20 that:

1-21 (1) is assigned to a different motor vehicle;  
1-22 (2) is assigned to the vehicle under any other motor  
1-23 vehicle law other than by the department;

1-24 (3) is assigned for a registration period other than  
1-25 the registration period in effect;

1-26 (4) is fictitious;

1-27 (5) has letters, numbers, or other identification  
1-28 marks that because of blurring or reflective matter are not plainly  
1-29 visible at all times during daylight;

1-30 (6) has an attached illuminated device or [is a]  
1-31 sticker, decal, emblem, or other insignia that is not authorized by  
1-32 law and that interferes with the readability of the letters or  
1-33 numbers on the plate or the name of the state in which the vehicle is  
1-34 registered; or

1-35 (7) has a coating, covering, or protective material  
1-36 that:

1-37 (A) distorts angular visibility or  
1-38 detectability; or

1-39 (B) alters or obscures the letters or numbers on  
1-40 the plate, the color of the plate, or another original design  
1-41 feature of the plate.

1-42 SECTION 3. (a) The change in law made by this Act applies  
1-43 only to an offense committed on or after the effective date of this  
1-44 Act. For the purposes of this section, an offense is committed  
1-45 before the effective date of this Act if any element of the offense  
1-46 occurs before that date.

1-47 (b) An offense committed before the effective date of this  
1-48 Act is governed by the law in effect when the offense was committed,  
1-49 and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

1-50 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2003.

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