

By: Jackson, et al.

H.B. No. 1531

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to telematics services excepted from private security regulation.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter N, Chapter 1702, Occupations Code, is amended by adding Section 1702.331 to read as follows:

Sec. 1702.331. TELEMATICS SERVICE PROVIDERS. (a) In this section, "telematics service" means:

(1) a service that:

(A) is provided to owners, operators, and occupants of consumer vehicles or commercial fleet vehicles through the remote access of in-vehicle data that may rely on global positioning system satellite data to fix the exact location of the vehicle, including:

(i) location-specific emergency and roadside vehicle breakdown assistance;

(ii) automatic collision notification;

(iii) real-time traffic and navigation information;

(iv) remote vehicle diagnostics; and

(v) stolen vehicle recovery;

(B) is enabled through the two-way communication of voice or data, often with an interactive voice response technology interface, between a service subscriber's vehicle and a

1 telematics company's response center; and

2 (C) is provided to:

3 (i) enhance vehicle service, safety, and
4 convenience while driving for vehicle owners;

5 (ii) enable automakers and automobile
6 dealerships to achieve greater service and customer management
7 efficiencies and to increase customer retention; and

8 (iii) enable fleet operators to remotely
9 manage their vehicles and other mobile assets; and

10 (2) a related service provided to consumers,
11 automakers, automobile dealerships, and commercial fleet operators
12 by a telematics company as part of the emerging technology industry
13 that delivers telematics services on a national basis to service
14 subscribers.

15 (b) Except as otherwise provided by this section, this
16 chapter does not apply to a person who provides a telematics service
17 in this state.

18 (c) To qualify for the exemption provided by Subsection (b),
19 a telematics service provider shall:

20 (1) establish business practices and procedures that
21 are at least as stringent as the guidelines established by the
22 Association of Public Safety Communications Officials
23 International regarding the communication of information from
24 telematics service providers to public safety agencies; and

25 (2) pay an annual fee of \$2,500 to the department.

26 (d) The department may adopt rules necessary to carry out
27 the purposes of this section, including rules to determine whether

1 a telematics service provider is complying with Subsection (c).

2 SECTION 2. (a) Not later than January 1, 2006, the
3 Department of Public Safety of the State of Texas shall adopt the
4 rules necessary to implement Section 1702.331, Occupations Code, as
5 added by this Act.

6 (b) A telematics service provider is not required to comply
7 with Section 1702.331, Occupations Code, before January 1, 2006.

8 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2005.