

By: Barrientos

S.B. No. 129

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to certain exceptions to the requirement that the operator
3 of a motor vehicle operated on a turnpike project pay the proper
4 toll or the full amount of the toll.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 370.177(a), Transportation Code, is
7 amended to read as follows:

8 (a) Except as provided by Section 370.1771, the ~~[The]~~
9 operator of a vehicle ~~[, other than an authorized emergency vehicle~~
10 ~~as defined by Section 541.201,]~~ that is driven or towed through a
11 toll collection facility of a turnpike project shall pay the proper
12 toll. The operator of a vehicle who drives or tows a vehicle
13 through a toll collection facility and does not pay the proper toll
14 commits an offense. An offense under this subsection is a
15 misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed \$250.

16 SECTION 2. Subchapter E, Chapter 370, Transportation Code,
17 is amended by adding Section 370.1771 to read as follows:

18 Sec. 370.1771. EXCEPTION TO TOLL REQUIREMENT. (a) Section
19 370.177(a) does not apply to the operator of:

20 (1) an authorized emergency vehicle as defined by
21 Section 541.201;

22 (2) a school bus transporting students to or from a
23 public school or in connection with a public school activity; or

24 (3) a vehicle owned or operated by a public transit

1 agency that has contributed to the cost of construction of the
2 turnpike project, including a transit agency that donated land or
3 right-of-way for the project.

4 (b) The board may waive the requirement of the payment of a
5 toll or may authorize the payment of a reduced toll for vehicles or
6 classes of vehicles that are owned or operated by a public transit
7 authority not described by Subsection (a)(3).

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