

By: Gonzalez Toureilles

H.B. No. 195

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the transfer of certain abandoned or forfeited property
3 to county or municipal agencies.

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

5 SECTION 1. Article 59.06(b), Code of Criminal Procedure, is
6 amended to read as follows:

7 (b) If a local agreement exists between the attorney
8 representing the state and law enforcement agencies, the attorney
9 representing the state may transfer the property to law enforcement
10 agencies to maintain, repair, use, and operate the property for
11 official purposes if the property is free of any interest of an
12 interest holder. The agency receiving the forfeited property may
13 purchase the interest of an interest holder so that the property can
14 be released for use by the agency. The agency receiving the
15 forfeited property may maintain, repair, use, and operate the
16 property with money appropriated for current operations. If the
17 property is a motor vehicle subject to registration under the motor
18 vehicle registration laws of this state, the agency receiving the
19 forfeited vehicle is considered to be the purchaser and the
20 certificate of title shall issue to the agency. The agency at any
21 time may transfer the property to any other ~~[a]~~ municipal or county
22 ~~[law enforcement]~~ agency for the use of that agency.

23 SECTION 2. Sections 683.016(a) and (b), Transportation
24 Code, are amended to read as follows:

1 (a) The law enforcement agency that takes an abandoned motor
2 vehicle into custody that is not claimed under Section 683.012 may:

3 (1) use the vehicle for agency purposes; or

4 (2) transfer the vehicle to any municipal or county
5 agency for the use of that agency.

6 (b) The law enforcement agency shall auction the vehicle as
7 provided by this subchapter if the law enforcement agency or the
8 municipal or county agency to which the vehicle was transferred
9 under Subsection (a) discontinues use of the vehicle.

10 SECTION 3. Article 59.06(b), Code of Criminal Procedure,
11 and Section 683.016, Transportation Code, as amended by this Act,
12 apply to personal property seized or taken into custody on or after
13 the effective date of this Act. Personal property seized or taken
14 into custody before the effective date of this Act is governed by
15 the law in effect on the date the property is seized or taken into
16 custody, and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

17 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2007.