

By: West, Royce

S.B. No. 1060

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the operation of hybrid motor vehicles.

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

SECTION 1. Section 224.153, Transportation Code, is amended by adding Subsection (e) to read as follows:

(e) A motor vehicle displaying the "hybrid vehicle" insignia authorized by Section 502.1861 in an easily readable location on the back of the vehicle may use a high occupancy vehicle lane regardless of the number of occupants in the vehicle unless the use would impair the receipt of federal transit funds.

SECTION 2. Subtitle G, Title 6, Transportation Code, is amended by adding Chapter 371 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 371. PROVISIONS APPLICABLE TO MORE THAN

ONE TYPE OF TOLL PROJECT

Sec. 371.001. VEHICLES DISPLAYING "HYBRID VEHICLE" INSIGNIA. (a) In this section:

(1) "Department" means the Texas Department of Transportation.

(2) "Toll project" means a toll project described by Section 201.001(b), regardless of whether the toll project is:

(A) a part of the state highway system; or

(B) subject to the jurisdiction of the department.

(b) A motor vehicle displaying the "hybrid vehicle"

1 insignia authorized by Section 502.1861 in an easily readable  
2 location on the back of the vehicle is entitled to 100 free uses per  
3 year of toll projects in this state.

4 (c) The department shall adopt rules to implement this  
5 section.

6 SECTION 3. Subchapter D, Chapter 502, Transportation Code,  
7 is amended by adding Section 502.1695 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 502.1695. FEE: HYBRID VEHICLES. (a) Notwithstanding  
9 Sections 502.161, 502.172, 502.173, and 502.177, the department  
10 shall register without charge a motor vehicle under this chapter  
11 if:

12 (1) the motor vehicle is issued a "hybrid vehicle"  
13 insignia authorized under Section 502.1861; and

14 (2) it is the first time the owner is registering the  
15 vehicle under this chapter.

16 (b) The department shall adopt rules to implement this  
17 section.

18 SECTION 4. Subchapter D, Chapter 502, Transportation Code,  
19 is amended by adding Section 502.1861 to read as follows:

20 Sec. 502.1861. "HYBRID VEHICLE" INSIGNIA FOR CERTAIN MOTOR  
21 VEHICLES. (a) At the time of registration or reregistration of the  
22 motor vehicle, the department shall issue a specially designed  
23 "hybrid vehicle" insignia for a motor vehicle that draws propulsion  
24 energy from both gasoline or conventional diesel fuel and from a  
25 rechargeable energy storage system.

26 (b) The department shall issue a "hybrid vehicle" insignia  
27 under this section without the payment of any additional fee to a

1 person who:

2 (1) applies to the department on a form provided by the  
3 department; and

4 (2) submits proof that the motor vehicle being  
5 registered is a vehicle described by Subsection (a).

6 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2007.