

By: Ogden

S.B. No. 1723

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the collection of surcharges assessed under the driver responsibility program.

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

SECTION 1. Subsection (b), Section 708.153, Transportation Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b) A rule under this section:

(1) may not permit a person to pay a surcharge over a period of more than 36 consecutive months; and

(2) may provide that if the person fails to make a required installment payment, the department may reestablish the installment plan or declare the amount of the unpaid surcharge immediately due and payable.

SECTION 2. Section 708.155, Transportation Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 708.155. CONTRACTS FOR COLLECTION OF SURCHARGES.

(a) The department may enter into a contract with a private attorney or a public or private vendor for the provision of services for the collection of surcharges receivable and related costs under this chapter.

(b) To provide for alternative or additional collection methods for surcharges receivable that have not been collected under the original contract, the department may amend the original contract entered into under Subsection (a) or enter into additional

1 contracts under Subsection (a).

2 (c) The total amount of compensation under a contract
3 entered into under this section may not exceed 30 percent of the
4 amount of the surcharges and related costs collected.

5 SECTION 3. Subchapter D, Chapter 708, Transportation Code,
6 is amended by adding Section 708.157 to read as follows:

7 Sec. 708.157. AMNESTY AND INCENTIVES. (a) The department
8 by rule may establish a periodic amnesty program for holders of a
9 driver's license on which a surcharge has been assessed for certain
10 offenses, as determined by the department.

11 (b) The department by rule may offer a holder of a driver's
12 license on which a surcharge has been assessed an incentive for
13 compliance with the law and efforts at rehabilitation, including a
14 reduction of a surcharge or a decrease in the length of an
15 installment plan.

16 SECTION 4. The changes in law made by this Act to Section
17 708.155, Transportation Code, do not affect the entitlement of a
18 private attorney or a public or private vendor with whom the
19 Department of Public Safety of the State of Texas contracts under
20 that section immediately before September 1, 2007, to bid on the
21 additional contract.

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