

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, the department may amend a contract entered into under Subsection (a) and enter into additional contracts under Subsection (a).

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

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

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

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

15 (c) The department by rule may establish an indigency
16 program for holders of a driver's license on which a surcharge has
17 been assessed for certain offenses, as determined by the
18 department.

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

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

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 1723 passed the Senate on April 25, 2007, by the following vote: Yeas 29, Nays 0; and that the Senate concurred in House amendments on May 24, 2007, by the following vote: Yeas 30, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 1723 passed the House, with amendments, on May 17, 2007, by the following vote: Yeas 144, Nays 0, two present not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

Approved:

Date

Governor