

By: Carona

S.B. No. 1897

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the authority of a county assessor-collector or the Texas Department of Transportation to refuse to register a vehicle in certain circumstances.

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

SECTION 1. Sections 502.185(a), (b), (c), (d), (e), and (f), Transportation Code, are amended to read as follows:

(a) A county assessor-collector [~~or the department~~] may refuse to register a motor vehicle if the assessor-collector [~~or the department~~] receives information that the owner of the vehicle owes the county money for a fine, fee, or tax that is past due.

(b) The department shall refuse to register a motor vehicle if the department has received information from a county assessor-collector that the owner of the vehicle owes the county money for a fine, fee, or tax that is past due. To be valid, notice under this subsection must include:

(1) the name of the owner and the license number or vehicle identification number of the vehicle;

(2) the amount of the fine, fee, or tax that is past due;

(3) the name of the entity to which the fine, fee, or tax is due;

(4) a description of the grounds for imposition of the fine, fee, or tax; and

1 (5) the address where payment of the fine, fee, or tax
2 can be made or sent and the telephone number for that address [A
3 ~~county may contract with the department to provide information to~~
4 ~~the department necessary to make a determination under Subsection~~
5 ~~(a)].~~

6 (c) A county that has sent a notice to the department [~~a~~
7 ~~contract~~] under Subsection (b) shall notify the department as soon
8 as possible if the [~~regarding a~~] person described in the notice pays
9 or otherwise discharges [~~for whom the county assessor-collector or~~
10 ~~the department has refused to register a motor vehicle on:~~

11 [~~(1) the person's payment or other means of discharge~~
12 ~~of~~] the past due fine, fee, or tax[~~+~~] or has perfected [~~(2)~~
13 ~~perfection of~~] an appeal of the case contesting payment of the fine,
14 fee, or tax.

15 [~~(d)~~] After notice is received under this subsection
16 [~~Subsection (c)~~], the [~~county assessor-collector or the~~]
17 department may not refuse to register the motor vehicle under
18 Subsection (b) [~~(a)~~].

19 (d) In connection with a vehicle described by Subsection
20 (b), the first registration renewal notice sent to the vehicle
21 owner after the date the department received notice under that
22 subsection must include notice to the owner, in bold 12-point type,
23 that registration of the vehicle is blocked under this section and
24 will continue to be blocked until the person pays or otherwise
25 discharges the fine, fee, or tax due the county, includes the amount
26 of the past due fine, fee, or tax, and provides the address to which
27 payment of the fine, fee, or tax can be made or sent [~~(e)~~—A

1 ~~contract under Subsection (b) must be entered into in accordance~~
2 ~~with Chapter 791, Government Code, and is subject to the ability of~~
3 ~~the parties to provide or pay for the services required under the~~
4 ~~contract].~~

5 (e) The department shall provide a service by which ~~[(f) A~~
6 ~~county that has a contract under Subsection (b) may impose an~~
7 ~~additional fee to]~~ a person is able to pay ~~[paying]~~ a fine, fee, or
8 tax to the county by use of the Internet ~~[after it is past due]~~. The
9 ~~[additional fee may be used only to reimburse the]~~ department may
10 not refuse to register a vehicle after the person pays the past due
11 fine, fee, or tax by means of the online service ~~[for its expenses~~
12 ~~for providing services under the contract].~~

13 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2007.