

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD

Austin, Texas

FISCAL NOTE, 80TH LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION

March 17, 2007

TO: Honorable John Carona, Chair, Senate Committee on Transportation & Homeland Security

FROM: John S. O'Brien, Director, Legislative Budget Board

IN RE: SB1208 by Carona (Relating to the release of a motor vehicle accident report or certain information in a motor vehicle accident report, providing penalties.), **As Introduced**

No significant fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.

The bill would amend the Transportation Code relating to the release of a motor vehicle accident report or certain information in a motor vehicle accident report.

The bill would amend Transportation Code, Section 550.065 which states this section applies only to information held by an agency that regularly receives information from or that relates to a person involved in a motor vehicle accident or prepares information relating to a person involved in a motor vehicle accident. The bill makes an accident report or information in an accident report, including the person's name, home or employment address, home or employment telephone number confidential and privileged information during the 30 day period immediately after the date the report is filed with the agency that holds the accident report or information.

The bill states the motor vehicle accident report or the information in the accident report can be immediately available: to a person involved in the accident, a person designated as the person's representative in writing by the person, the person's insurance agent, an attorney representing the state, law enforcement agency that employs a peace officer who investigated the accident and filed the report, the court in response to a subpoena, a FCC licensed radio or TV station, a qualified newspaper, or an agency of this or another state, of a political subdivision of this or another state, or of the United States that is authorized by law to have access to the motor vehicle report or information in connection with the agency's statutory duties.

The bill requires that access of the information during the 30-day period after the date the report is filed only if the person presents a valid driver's license or other form of identification, files a written statement recognizing the report or information is confidential and certify the report or information will not be used in connection with a commercial solicitation of a person involved in the accident or knowingly disclose to a third-party vendor for such purposes. A third-party vendor under contract with one or more of the insurers under certain circumstances may secure the information. The third-party vendor must also certify the report or information will not be used in connection with a commercial solicitation of a person involved in the accident.

The bill makes it a third degree felony for the following: 1) if the person is an employee of the agency and possesses a report or information and knowingly discloses the report or information to a person who is not entitled to have access to the report or information; 2) if a person who is not entitled to have access to the report or information accesses or attempts to access the report or information; or 3) if the person knowingly uses the report or information that violates the person's written statement filed under this section. After 30 days, a person who provides the date and location of the accident and the name of a driver may have access to the report or information.

The bill would take effect on September 1, 2007.

DPS estimates an additional \$53,328 in professional service fees would be needed for additional crash records information system programming changes in fiscal year 2008 in order to implement the required changes of the bill. This analysis assumes that these costs can be absorbed within the agency’s current appropriations.

Local Government Impact

No significant fiscal implication to units of local government is anticipated.

Source Agencies: 405 Department of Public Safety

LBB Staff: JOB, KJG, GG, LG