

By: Gonzalez Tourelles

H.B. No. 141

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to evidence of motor vehicle financial responsibility;
3 providing a penalty.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 601.053, Transportation Code, is amended
6 by adding Subsections (c) and (d) to read as follows:

7 (c) A person commits an offense if the person fails or
8 refuses to provide to a peace officer the evidence of financial
9 responsibility as required by Subsection (a). An offense under
10 this subsection is a Class C misdemeanor.

11 (d) A court shall dismiss a charge of an offense under
12 Subsection (c) if the defendant presents to the court one of the
13 documents listed in Subsection (a) that was valid at the time that
14 the offense occurred. The court may assess the defendant an
15 administrative fee not to exceed \$10 when the charge is dismissed.
16 Section 51.607, Government Code, does not apply to the
17 administrative fee.

18 SECTION 2. Subchapter I, Chapter 601, Transportation Code,
19 is amended by adding Section 601.2611 to read as follows:

20 Sec. 601.2611. RELEASE OF VEHICLE ON PROOF OF FINANCIAL
21 RESPONSIBILITY IN CERTAIN MUNICIPALITIES. (a) This section
22 applies only to a municipality that has a population of more than
23 one million and is located in the metropolitan area served by a
24 rapid transit authority eligible to create an advanced

1 transportation district under Subchapter O, Chapter 451.

2 (b) Notwithstanding any other law, the owner or operator of
3 a storage facility shall release a vehicle impounded at the
4 facility because the vehicle had been operated by a person without
5 evidence of financial responsibility and waive the impound and
6 storage fees if the owner of the vehicle provides to the owner or
7 operator of the facility not later than 48 hours after the vehicle
8 was impounded evidence of financial responsibility for the vehicle
9 that was in effect on the date the impoundment began. The
10 municipality that authorized the impoundment shall pay any
11 impoundment or storage fee waived under this section.

12 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.