

By: Aycock

H.B. No. 1561

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to discount programs for certain veterans provided by toll project entities.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 371, Transportation Code, as added by Chapters 103 (H.B. 570) and 258 (S.B. 11), Acts of the 80th Legislature, Regular Session, 2007, is reenacted, redesignated as Chapter 372, Transportation Code, and amended to read as follows:

CHAPTER 372 [~~371~~]. PROVISIONS APPLICABLE TO MORE THAN ONE TYPE OF

TOLL PROJECT

SUBCHAPTER A. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 372.001 [~~371.001~~]. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

(1) "Toll project" means a toll project described by Section 201.001(b), regardless of whether the toll project:

(A) is a part of the state highway system; or

(B) is subject to the jurisdiction of the department.

(2) "Toll project entity" means an entity authorized by law to acquire, design, construct, finance, operate, and maintain a toll project, including:

(A) the department under Chapter 227 or 228;

(B) a regional tollway authority under Chapter 366;

(C) a regional mobility authority under Chapter

1 370; or

2 (D) a county under Chapter 284.

3 SUBCHAPTER B. TOLL PROJECT OPERATION

4 Sec. 372.051 [~~371.051~~]. USE OF MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION
5 OR LICENSE PLATE INFORMATION. (a) A toll project entity may not
6 use motor vehicle registration or other information derived from a
7 license plate on a vehicle using a toll project, including
8 information obtained by the use of automated enforcement technology
9 described by Section 228.058, for purposes other than those related
10 to:

11 (1) toll collection and toll collection enforcement;
12 and

13 (2) law enforcement purposes on request by a law
14 enforcement agency [~~, subject to Section 228.058(d)~~].

15 (b) If a toll project entity enters into an agreement with
16 an entity in another state that involves the exchange of motor
17 vehicle registration or license plate information for toll
18 collection or toll collection enforcement purposes, the agreement
19 must provide that the information may not be used for purposes other
20 than those described in Subsection (a).

21 Sec. 372.052 [~~371.001~~]. VEHICLES USED BY NONPROFIT
22 DISASTER RELIEF ORGANIZATIONS. [~~(a) In this section:~~

23 [~~(1) "Toll project" means a toll project described by~~
24 ~~Section 201.001(b), regardless of whether the toll project is:~~

25 [~~(A) a part of the state highway system; or~~

26 [~~(B) subject to the jurisdiction of the~~
27 ~~department.~~

1 ~~[(2) "Toll project entity" means an entity authorized~~
2 ~~by law to acquire, design, construct, finance, operate, and~~
3 ~~maintain a toll project, including:~~

4 ~~[(A) the department under Chapter 227 or 228,~~

5 ~~[(B) a regional tollway authority under Chapter~~
6 ~~366,~~

7 ~~[(C) a regional mobility authority under Chapter~~
8 ~~370; or~~

9 ~~[(D) a county under Chapter 284.~~

10 ~~[(b)]~~ A toll project entity may not require a vehicle
11 registered under Section 502.203 to pay a toll for the use of a toll
12 project.

13 Sec. 372.053. DISABLED VETERAN DISCOUNT PROGRAM. (a) A
14 toll project entity may establish a discount program for electronic
15 toll collection customers. The program must include free or
16 discounted use of the entity's toll project by an electronic toll
17 collection customer whose account relates to a vehicle registered
18 by a veteran of the United States armed forces who became totally
19 disabled for purposes of employability according to the disability
20 ratings of the Department of Veterans Affairs as a result of a
21 service-related injury.

22 (b) The legislature may appropriate funds from the general
23 revenue fund to a toll project entity to defray the cost of
24 providing free or discounted use of the entity's toll project under
25 this section.

26 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.