

By: Carona

S.B. No. 716

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

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relating to late fees under a residential lease.

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

SECTION 1. Section 92.019(a), Property Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) A landlord may not charge a tenant a late fee for failing to pay rent unless:

- (1) notice of the fee is included in a written lease;
- (2) the fee is a reasonable estimate of uncertain damages to the landlord that are incapable of precise calculation and result from late payment of rent; and
- (3) the rent has remained [~~remains~~] unpaid one full [~~after the second~~] day after the date the rent was originally due.

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2009.