

By: Guillen

H.B. No. 588

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the advance payment of surcharges under the Driver Responsibility Program.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter D, Chapter 708, Transportation Code, is amended by adding Section 708.159 to read as follows:

Sec. 708.159. ADVANCE PAYMENT OF SURCHARGES. (a) The department shall offer an option for a single up-front payment to a person who is assessed an annual surcharge under this chapter to allow the person to pay in advance the total amount that will be owed for the 36-month period for which the surcharge will be assessed.

(b) Notice under Section 708.151 of an initial surcharge imposed under this chapter must notify the driver's license holder of:

(1) the total amount the person will owe for the 36-month period for which the surcharge will be assessed; and

(2) the availability of the advance payment option under this section.

(c) If a person makes a single up-front payment under this section in the amount specified in the notice under Subsection (b)(1) and the person is not, in the 36-month period for which the person made the up-front payment, subsequently convicted of an offense requiring a surcharge or an increase in the amount due to

1 the department, the department is not required to:

2 (1) take any further action under Section 708.053,  
3 708.102, 708.103, or 708.104, as applicable; or

4 (2) annually notify the person of the assessment of  
5 the surcharge under Section 708.151.

6 SECTION 2. Section 708.159, Transportation Code, as added  
7 by this Act, applies to any total surcharge amounts owed by a person  
8 for a 36-month period under Chapter 708, Transportation Code,  
9 regardless of whether the initial annual surcharge was assessed  
10 before, on, or after the effective date of this Act.

11 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2011.