

By: Oliveira

H.B. No. 2204

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the refusal to register motor vehicles by a county assessor-collector or the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles.

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

SECTION 1. Section 502.185, Transportation Code, is amended by amending Subsections (a), (b), and (f) and adding Subsection (f-1) to read as follows:

(a) A county assessor-collector or the department may refuse to register a motor vehicle if the assessor-collector or the department receives information that the owner of the vehicle:

(1) owes the county money for a fine, fee, or tax that is past due; or

(2) failed to appear in connection with a complaint or citation relating to a county fine, fee, or tax.

(b) A county may contract with the department or the county assessor-collector to provide information to the department or the assessor-collector necessary to make a determination under Subsection (a).

(f) A county that has a contract under Subsection (b) shall ~~may~~ impose an additional fee of \$20 to:

(1) a person who fails to pay ~~paying~~ a fine, fee, or tax to the county by the date on which the fine, fee, or tax is ~~after it is past~~ due; or

(2) a person who fails to appear in connection with a

1 complaint or citation relating to a county fine, fee, or tax.

2       (f-1) The additional fee may be used only to reimburse the  
3 department or the county assessor-collector for its expenses for  
4 providing services under the contract.

5       SECTION 2. Section 702.003, Transportation Code, is amended  
6 by amending Subsections (b) and (c) and adding Subsection (e-1) to  
7 read as follows:

8       (b) A municipality may contract with the assessor-collector  
9 for the [a] county in which the municipality is located or the  
10 department to provide information to the county assessor-collector  
11 or department necessary to make a determination under Subsection  
12 (a).

13       (c) A municipality that has a contract under Subsection (b)  
14 shall notify the county assessor-collector or the department  
15 regarding a person for whom the county assessor-collector or the  
16 department has refused to register a motor vehicle on:

17           (1) entry of a judgment against the person and the  
18 person's payment to the court of the fine for the violation and of  
19 all court costs;

20           (2) perfection of an appeal of the case for which the  
21 arrest warrant was issued; or

22           (3) dismissal of the charge for which the arrest  
23 warrant was issued.

24       (e-1) A municipality that has a contract under Subsection  
25 (b) shall impose an additional \$20 fee to a person who has an  
26 outstanding warrant from the municipality for failure to appear or  
27 failure to pay a fine on a complaint that involves the violation of

1 a traffic law. The additional fee may be used only to reimburse the  
2 department or the county assessor-collector for its expenses for  
3 providing services under the contract.

4 SECTION 3. The changes in law made by Sections 502.185 and  
5 702.003, Transportation Code, as amended by this Act, apply only to  
6 a failure to appear or a fine, fee, or tax in connection with a  
7 complaint or citation issued on or after the effective date of this  
8 Act. A failure to appear or a fine, fee, or tax in connection with a  
9 complaint or citation issued before the effective date of this Act  
10 is subject to the law in effect on that date, and that law is  
11 continued in effect for that purpose.

12 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2011.