

By: Fraser, West

S.B. No. 1742

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the operation of plug-in electric motor vehicles.

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

SECTION 1. Section 224.153, Transportation Code, is amended by adding Subsection (e) to read as follows:

(e) A motor vehicle displaying the "plug-in electric vehicle" insignia authorized by Section 502.186 in an easily readable location on the back of the vehicle may use a high occupancy vehicle lane regardless of the number of occupants in the vehicle unless the use would violate federal transit or highway funding restrictions.

SECTION 2. Subchapter D, Chapter 502, Transportation Code, is amended by adding Section 502.186 to read as follows:

Sec. 502.186. "PLUG-IN ELECTRIC VEHICLE" INSIGNIA FOR CERTAIN MOTOR VEHICLES. (a) At the time of registration or reregistration of a motor vehicle, the department shall issue a specially designed "plug-in electric vehicle" insignia for a motor vehicle that:

(1) is made by a manufacturer primarily for use on public highways;

(2) has not been modified from original manufacturer specifications;

(3) is rated at not more than 8,500 pounds unloaded gross vehicle weight;

1           (4) is acquired for use or lease by a consumer and not  
2 for resale;

3           (5) has a speed capability of at least 65 miles per  
4 hour;

5           (6) is propelled to a significant extent by an  
6 electric motor that draws electricity from a battery that:

7                   (A) has a capacity of not less than four kilowatt  
8 hours; and

9                   (B) is capable of being recharged from an  
10 external source of electricity; and

11           (7) is not a recreational vehicle, as defined by  
12 Section 522.004(b), that draws power from a battery or a hybrid  
13 engine solely for purposes other than propulsion.

14           (b) The department shall issue a "plug-in electric vehicle"  
15 insignia under this section to a person who:

16                   (1) applies to the department on a form provided by the  
17 department; and

18                   (2) submits proof that the motor vehicle being  
19 registered is a vehicle described by Subsection (a).

20           (c) The department may charge a fee for the issuance of a  
21 "plug-in electric vehicle" insignia under this section. The fee  
22 may not exceed \$20 per motor vehicle.

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