

By: Gonzales

H.B. No. 557

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the number of license plates to be issued for and displayed on certain motor vehicles.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 504, Transportation Code, is amended by adding Section 504.011 to read as follows:

Sec. 504.011. ISSUANCE AND DISPLAY OF LICENSE PLATE FOR PASSENGER CAR OR LIGHT TRUCK. (a) Notwithstanding anything in this code to the contrary, the department shall issue only one license plate for attachment at the rear of a passenger car or light truck for which the plate is issued.

(b) Notwithstanding anything in this code to the contrary, a person is entitled to operate on a public highway a passenger car or light truck that displays only one license plate if the plate is attached at the rear of the vehicle. A person may operate on a public highway a passenger car or light truck that displays two license plates if both plates were assigned by the department for the registration period as a set of plates.

(c) In any provision of this code that relates to the issuance or display of "license plates," "plates," or a "set of plates" for a passenger car or light truck, the term means only one license plate.

SECTION 2. Section 504.943, Transportation Code, is amended by amending Subsection (b) and adding Subsection (e) to read as

1 follows:

2 (b) A person commits an offense if the person operates on a
3 public highway during a registration period a passenger car, light
4 truck, road tractor, motorcycle, trailer, or semitrailer that does
5 not display a license plate that:

6 (1) has been assigned by the department for the
7 period; and

8 (2) complies with department rules regarding the
9 placement of license plates.

10 (e) In this section, "light truck" and "passenger car" have
11 the meanings assigned by Section 541.201.

12 SECTION 3. The change in law made by this Act regarding the
13 issuance of license plates by the Texas Department of Motor
14 Vehicles applies only to the issuance of license plates by the
15 department for a registration period beginning on or after the
16 effective date of this Act. For a registration period that begins
17 before the effective date of this Act, the department shall issue
18 license plates as required by the law in effect immediately before
19 the effective date of this Act, and the former law is continued in
20 effect for that purpose.

21 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2013.