

By: Lavender

H.B. No. 657

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the number of license plates to be issued for and displayed on 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. (a) Notwithstanding anything in this code to the contrary, the department shall issue only one license plate for attachment at the rear of the vehicle 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 vehicle 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 vehicle 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," 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 follows:

(b) A person commits an offense if the person operates on a public highway during a registration period a passenger car, light

1 truck, road tractor, motorcycle, trailer, or semitrailer that does
2 not display a license plate that:

3 (1) has been assigned by the department for the
4 period; and

5 (2) complies with department rules regarding the
6 placement of license plates.

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

9 SECTION 3. The change in law made by this Act regarding the
10 issuance of license plates by the Texas Department of Motor
11 Vehicles applies only to the issuance of license plates by the
12 department for a registration period beginning on or after the
13 effective date of this Act.

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