

By: Harper-Brown

H.B. No. 2876

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to fees for the compulsory inspection of motor vehicles;  
authorizing a maximum fee to be charged by an inspection station.

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

SECTION 1. The heading to Section 548.102, Transportation Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 548.102. [~~TWO-YEAR~~] INITIAL INSPECTION PERIOD FOR PASSENGER CAR OR LIGHT TRUCK.

SECTION 2. Section 548.102(a), Transportation Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) The initial inspection period is three [~~two~~] years for a passenger car or light truck that:

(1) is sold in this state;

(2) has not been previously registered in this or another state; and

(3) on the date of sale is of the current or preceding model year.

SECTION 3. Section 548.501, Transportation Code, is amended by amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsections (c) and (d) to read as follows:

(a) Except as provided by Sections 548.503 and 548.504, each inspection station shall set a reasonable maximum [~~the~~] fee for inspection of a motor vehicle [~~other than a moped is \$12.50. The fee for inspection of a moped is \$5.75~~]. If the maximum inspection

1 fee set by the inspection station exceeds the recommended maximum  
2 inspection fee set by the commission under Subsection (d), the  
3 inspection station must provide written notice to the commission of  
4 the inspection station's maximum inspection fee. The maximum  
5 inspection fee must include any amount to be charged [~~fee~~] for a  
6 verification form issued as required by Section 548.256 [~~is \$1~~].

7 (c) After receiving written notice under Subsection (a),  
8 the commission may review an inspection station's maximum  
9 inspection fee to determine whether it is reasonable. In  
10 determining whether a maximum inspection fee charged by an  
11 inspection station is reasonable, the commission may consider the  
12 resources required by the inspection station to perform the  
13 station's inspection duties under state and federal law. If the  
14 commission determines that an inspection fee is not reasonable, the  
15 commission may require the inspection station to reduce the amount  
16 of the maximum inspection fee the station charges.

17 (d) The commission by rule shall establish a statewide  
18 recommended maximum inspection fee that an inspection station may  
19 charge for inspection of a motor vehicle.

20 SECTION 4. Section 548.503, Transportation Code, is amended  
21 to read as follows:

22 Sec. 548.503. INITIAL [~~TWO-YEAR~~] INSPECTION OF PASSENGER  
23 CAR OR LIGHT TRUCK. (a) The fee for inspection of a passenger car  
24 or light truck under Section 548.102 shall be set by the department  
25 by rule on or before September 1 of each year. A fee set by the  
26 department under this subsection must be based on the costs of  
27 producing certificates, providing inspections, and administering

1 the program, but may not be less than \$34.25 [~~\$21.75~~].

2 (b) The department shall require an inspection station to  
3 make an advance payment of \$20.25 [~~\$14.75~~] for a certificate to be  
4 issued under this section. Additional payment may not be required  
5 of the station for the certificate. The inspection station may  
6 waive the fee due from the owner of the vehicle inspected. A refund  
7 for an unissued certificate shall be made in the same manner as  
8 provided for other certificate refunds.

9 SECTION 5. Subchapter H, Chapter 548, Transportation Code,  
10 is amended by adding Section 548.509 to read as follows:

11 Sec. 548.509. SIGNS DISPLAYING FEES. An inspection station  
12 shall post, in an area of the station that is accessible to and  
13 frequented by the public, a sign or placard stating:

14 (1) the maximum fee the inspection station may charge  
15 for a vehicle safety inspection; and

16 (2) the maximum fee the inspection station may charge  
17 for an emissions test, if required.

18 SECTION 6. (a) Not later than October 1, 2013, the Public  
19 Safety Commission shall adopt any rules necessary to implement  
20 Section 548.501, Transportation Code, as amended by this Act.

21 (b) Section 548.501(a), Transportation Code, as amended by  
22 this Act, applies only to an inspection of a motor vehicle performed  
23 on or after October 1, 2013. An inspection performed before October  
24 1, 2013, is governed by the law in effect on the date the inspection  
25 was performed, and the former law is continued in effect for that  
26 purpose.

27 SECTION 7. This Act takes effect September 1, 2013.