

By: Coleman

H.B. No. 3770

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT  
2 relating to the refusal to register motor vehicles by a county  
3 assessor-collector or the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles;  
4 authorizing a fee.

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

6 SECTION 1. The heading to Chapter 702, Transportation Code,  
7 is amended to read as follows:

8 CHAPTER 702. CONTRACTS FOR ENFORCEMENT OF CERTAIN ARREST WARRANTS  
9 OR PAYMENT OF CERTAIN FINES

10 SECTION 2. Section 702.003, Transportation Code, is amended  
11 by amending Subsections (a), (c), and (e-1) and adding Subsections  
12 (e-2) and (g) to read as follows:

13 (a) A county assessor-collector or the department may refuse  
14 to register a motor vehicle if the assessor-collector or the  
15 department receives under a contract information from a  
16 municipality that the owner of the vehicle:

17 (1) has an outstanding warrant from that municipality  
18 for failure to appear or failure to pay a fine on a complaint that  
19 involves the violation of a traffic law; or

20 (2) is past due in the payment of a fine from that  
21 municipality on a complaint that involves the violation of a  
22 traffic law.

23 (c) A municipality that has a contract under Subsection (b)  
24 shall notify the county assessor-collector or the department

1 regarding a person for whom the county assessor-collector or the  
2 department has refused to register a motor vehicle on:

3 (1) entry of a judgment against the person and the  
4 person's payment to the court of the fine for the violation and of  
5 all court costs;

6 (2) perfection of an appeal of the case for which the  
7 arrest warrant was issued or the case contesting payment of the  
8 fine; or

9 (3) dismissal of the charge for which the arrest  
10 warrant was issued or discharge of the past due fine.

11 (e-1) A municipality that has a contract under Subsection  
12 (b) may impose an additional \$20 fee to:

13 (1) a person who has an outstanding warrant from the  
14 municipality for failure to appear or failure to pay a fine on a  
15 complaint that involves the violation of a traffic law; or

16 (2) a person paying a past due fine from the  
17 municipality on a complaint that involves the violation of a  
18 traffic law.

19 (e-2) The additional fee imposed under Subsection (e-1) may  
20 be used only to reimburse the department or the county  
21 assessor-collector for its expenses for providing services under  
22 the contract, or another county department for expenses related to  
23 services under the contract.

24 (g) In this section:

25 (1) a fine is considered past due if it is unpaid 90 or  
26 more days after the date it is due; and

27 (2) registration of a motor vehicle includes renewal

1 of the registration of the vehicle.

2           SECTION 3. The changes in law made by this Act apply only to  
3 a fine in connection with a complaint or citation issued on or after  
4 the effective date of this Act. A fine in connection with a  
5 complaint or citation issued before the effective date of this Act  
6 is subject to the law in effect on the date the complaint or  
7 citation was issued, and that law is continued in effect for that  
8 purpose.

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