

By: Springer, Guillen

H.B. No. 2194

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the offense of leaving a motor vehicle unattended.

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

SECTION 1. Section 545.404, Transportation Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 545.404. UNATTENDED MOTOR VEHICLE. (a) Except as provided by Subsection (b), an ~~[An]~~ operator may not leave a ~~[the]~~ vehicle unattended without:

- (1) stopping the engine;
- (2) locking the ignition;
- (3) removing the key from the ignition;
- (4) setting the parking brake effectively; and
- (5) if standing on a grade, turning the front wheels to the curb or side of the highway.

(b) The requirements of Subsections (a)(1), (2), and (3) do not apply to an operator who starts the engine of a vehicle by using a remote starter or other similar device that:

- (1) remotely starts the vehicle's engine without placing the key in the ignition; and
- (2) requires the key to be placed in the ignition or physically present in the vehicle before the vehicle can be operated.

SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies only to an offense committed on or after the effective date of this Act.

1 An offense committed before the effective date of this Act is
2 governed by the law in effect on the date the offense was committed,
3 and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose. For
4 purposes of this section, an offense was committed before the
5 effective date of this Act if any element of the offense occurred
6 before that date.

7 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
8 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
9 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
10 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
11 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.