

By: Campbell

S.B. No. 1130

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to suspending a vehicle registration for the failure to establish financial responsibility; imposing penalties.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter H, Chapter 601, Transportation Code, is amended by adding Sections 601.235 and 601.236 to read as follows:

Sec. 601.235. SUSPENSION OF MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION BY THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES. (a) The Texas Department of Motor Vehicles may access the records of the Texas Department of Insurance and the Department of Public Safety to perform its duties under this section.

(b) The Texas Department of Motor Vehicles, using its own records, the records of the Texas Department of Insurance, and the records of the Department of Public Safety, shall verify quarterly whether owners of motor vehicles have established financial responsibility under this chapter.

(c) If the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles determines that the owner of a motor vehicle has not established the financial responsibility required by this chapter, that department shall send a notice to the owner:

(1) requiring the owner to submit the evidence required under Section 502.046 to the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles before the 45th day after the date the notice is sent; and

1           (2) warning the owner that the Texas Department of  
2 Motor Vehicles will suspend the owner's vehicle registration if the  
3 owner does not comply with Subdivision (1).

4           (d) If the owner does not comply with Subsection (c)(1), the  
5 Texas Department of Motor Vehicles shall suspend the owner's  
6 vehicle registration and mail a notice to the owner in a timely  
7 manner that states that the owner's vehicle registration is  
8 suspended.

9           (e) A suspension under Subsection (d) continues until the  
10 owner:

11           (1) submits evidence of financial responsibility  
12 required under Section 502.046; and

13           (2) pays an administrative fee of \$200.

14           (f) The Texas Department of Motor Vehicles shall adopt rules  
15 to implement this section.

16           (g) Information obtained under this section is confidential  
17 and may be used only for a purpose authorized by this section and  
18 may not be used for a commercial purpose. The information may be  
19 shared with counties.

20           (h) A person commits an offense if the person knowingly uses  
21 information obtained under this section for any purpose not  
22 authorized by this section. An offense under this subsection is a  
23 Class B misdemeanor.

24           Sec. 601.236. AGENT. (a) The Texas Department of Motor  
25 Vehicles, under a competitive bidding procedure, shall select an  
26 agent to develop, implement, operate, and maintain the financial  
27 responsibility verification program under Section 601.235.

1           (b) A contract under this section may not have a term of more  
2 than eight years.

3           SECTION 2. The Texas Department of Motor Vehicles shall  
4 select an agent required by Section 601.236, Transportation Code,  
5 as added by this Act, before December 31, 2015. The department  
6 shall adopt rules as required by Section 601.235, Transportation  
7 Code, as added by this Act, not later than seven months before the  
8 full implementation of the program under that section. The  
9 department shall require full implementation of the program for  
10 vehicles covered under a personal automobile insurance policy  
11 before December 31, 2016, and implementation of that program for  
12 vehicles covered under a commercial insurance policy when the  
13 department determines that implementation for vehicles covered  
14 under a commercial insurance policy is feasible.

15           SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.