

By: Thompson of Brazoria

H.B. No. 3184

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to an exemption from payment of tolls for certain
3 vehicles.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 228.054(a), Transportation Code, is
6 amended to read as follows:

7 (a) Except as provided by Subsection (e) or Section
8 228.0545, the operator of a vehicle, other than an authorized
9 emergency vehicle or a vehicle exempt from payment of registration
10 fees under Subchapter J, Chapter 502 [~~as defined by Section~~
11 ~~541.201~~], that is driven or towed through a toll collection
12 facility shall pay the proper toll. The exemption from payment of a
13 toll for an authorized emergency vehicle applies regardless of
14 whether the vehicle is:

- 15 (1) responding to an emergency;
16 (2) displaying a flashing light; or
17 (3) marked as an emergency vehicle.

18 SECTION 2. Section 284.070, Transportation Code, is amended
19 by adding Subsection (f) to read as follows:

20 (f) A vehicle exempt from payment of registration fees under
21 Subchapter J, Chapter 502, is exempt from payment of a toll imposed
22 under this chapter.

23 SECTION 3. Section 366.178, Transportation Code, is amended
24 by amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsection (a-1) to read as

1 follows:

2 (a) A motor vehicle, other than an authorized emergency
3 vehicle or a vehicle exempt from payment of registration fees under
4 Subchapter J, Chapter 502 [~~as defined by Section 541.201~~], that
5 passes through a toll assessment facility, whether driven or towed,
6 shall pay the proper toll. The exemption from payment of a toll for
7 an authorized emergency vehicle applies regardless of whether the
8 vehicle is:

- 9 (1) responding to an emergency;
10 (2) displaying a flashing light; or
11 (3) marked as a police or emergency vehicle.

12 (a-1) In this section, "authorized emergency vehicle" has
13 the meaning assigned by Section 541.201.

14 SECTION 4. Sections 370.177(a) and (k), Transportation
15 Code, are amended to read as follows:

16 (a) Except as provided by Subsection (a-1), the operator of
17 a vehicle, other than an authorized emergency vehicle or a vehicle
18 that is exempt from payment of registration fees under Subchapter
19 J, Chapter 502 [~~as defined by Section 541.201~~], that is driven or
20 towed through a toll collection facility of a turnpike project
21 shall pay the proper toll. The operator of a vehicle who drives or
22 tows a vehicle through a toll collection facility and does not pay
23 the proper toll commits an offense. An offense under this
24 subsection is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed \$250.
25 The exemption from payment of a toll for an authorized emergency
26 vehicle applies regardless of whether the vehicle is:

- 27 (1) responding to an emergency;

1 (2) displaying a flashing light; or

2 (3) marked as an emergency vehicle.

3 (k) In this section:

4 (1) "Authorized emergency vehicle" has the meaning
5 assigned by Section 541.201.

6 (2) "Registered [~~,"registered]~~ owner" means the owner
7 of a vehicle as shown on the vehicle registration records of the
8 department or the analogous department or agency of another state
9 or country.

10 SECTION 5. The change in law made by this Act applies only
11 to the collection of a toll incurred on or after the effective date
12 of this Act. The collection of a toll incurred before the effective
13 date of this Act is governed by the law in effect immediately before
14 the effective date of this Act, and that law is continued in effect
15 for that purpose.

16 SECTION 6. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.