By: Rodríguez (Pickett)

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1	AN ACT
2	relating to the titling of motor vehicles; creating a criminal
3	offense and authorizing fees.
4	BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:
5	SECTION 1. Section 501.002(30), Transportation Code, is
6	amended to read as follows:
7	(30) "Travel trailer" means a house trailer-type
8	vehicle or a camper trailer:
9	(A) that is a recreational vehicle defined under
10	24 C.F.R. Section 3282.8(g); or
11	(B) that:
12	(i) is less than eight feet <u>six inches</u> in
13	width or 45 [40] feet in length, exclusive of any hitch installed on
14	the vehicle;
15	(ii) is designed primarily for use as
16	temporary living quarters in connection with recreational,
17	camping, travel, or seasonal use;
18	(iii) is not used as a permanent dwelling;
19	and
20	(iv) is not a utility trailer, enclosed
21	trailer, or other trailer that does not have human habitation as its
22	primary function.
23	SECTION 2. Section 501.004(b), Transportation Code, is
24	amended to read as follows:

1 2 (b) This chapter does not apply to:

2 (1) a <u>farm</u> trailer or <u>farm</u> semitrailer <u>with a gross</u>
3 <u>vehicle weight of not more than 34,000 pounds</u> used only for the
4 transportation of farm products if the products are not transported
5 for hire;

6 (2) the filing or recording of a lien that is created 7 only on an automobile accessory, including a tire, radio, or 8 heater;

9 (3) a motor vehicle while it is owned or operated by 10 the United States; or

(4) a new motor vehicle on loan to a political subdivision of the state for use only in a driver education course conducted by an entity exempt from licensure under Section 14 1001.002, Education Code.

15 SECTION 3. Section 501.021(a), Transportation Code, is 16 amended to read as follows:

17 (a) A motor vehicle title issued by the department must18 include:

19 (1) the legal name and address of each purchaser [and
20 seller at the first sale or a subsequent sale];

(2) the <u>legal name of the seller and the municipality</u>
22 and state in which the seller is located or resides [make of the
23 motor vehicle];

24 (3) the <u>year, make, and</u> body <u>style</u> [type] of the 25 vehicle;

26 (4) the [manufacturer's permanent] vehicle
27 identification number of the vehicle [or the vehicle's motor number

1 if the vehicle was manufactured before the date that stamping a 2 permanent identification number on a motor vehicle was universally adopted]; 3 4 (5) if the vehicle is subject to odometer disclosure under Section 501.072, the odometer reading and odometer brand as 5 recorded on the last title assignment [serial number] for the 6 7 vehicle; the name and address of each lienholder and the (6) 8 9 date of each lien on the vehicle, listed in the chronological order 10 in which the lien was recorded; 11 (7) a statement indicating rights of survivorship under Section 501.031; and 12 (8) [if the vehicle has an odometer, the odometer 13 reading at the time of application for the title; and 14 15 [(9)] any other information required by the 16 department. 17 SECTION 4. Section 501.023(a), Transportation Code, is amended to read as follows: 18 (a) The owner of a motor vehicle must present identification 19 20 and apply for a title as prescribed by the department, unless otherwise exempted by law. To obtain a title, the owner must apply: 21 22 (1) to the county assessor-collector in the county in which: 23 24 (A) the owner is domiciled; or 25 (B) the motor vehicle is purchased or encumbered; 26 or 27 (2) [if the county in which the owner resides has been

1 declared by the governor as a disaster area, to the county assessor-collector in one of the closest unaffected counties to a 2 county that asks for assistance and: 3 4 [(A) continues to be declared by the governor 5 a disaster area because the county has been rendered inoperable by 6 the disaster; and 7 [(B) is inoperable for a protracted period of 8 time; or 9 [(3) if the county assessor-collector's office of the county in which the owner resides is closed for a protracted period 10 of time as defined by the department,] to the county 11 assessor-collector of a county [that borders the county in which 12 13 the owner resides] who is willing [agrees] to accept the application if the county assessor-collector's office of the county 14 in which the owner resides is closed or may be closed for a 15 protracted period of time as defined by the department. 16 SECTION 5. Section 501.030(a), Transportation Code, 17 is amended to read as follows: 18 Before a motor vehicle that was last registered or 19 (a) titled in another state or country may be titled in this state, the 20 county assessor-collector shall verify that the vehicle has passed 21 the inspections required by Chapter 548, as indicated in the 22 Department of Public Safety's inspection database under Section 23 548.251, or that the owner has obtained an identification number 24 25 inspection in accordance with department rule. SECTION 6. The heading to Section 501.032, Transportation 26 27 Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 501.032. [ASSIGNMENT OF VEHICLE] IDENTIFICATION
 NUMBER INSPECTION REQUIRED [BY DEPARTMENT].

3 SECTION 7. Sections 501.032(a) and (b), Transportation 4 Code, are amended to read as follows:

5 (a) <u>In addition to any requirement established by</u> 6 <u>department rule, a motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer must have</u> 7 <u>an identification number inspection under Section 501.0321 if:</u>

8 (1) the department does not have a motor vehicle 9 record for the motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer in the 10 department's registration and title system, and the owner of the 11 motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer is filing a bond with the 12 department under Section 501.053;

13 (2) the motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer was 14 last titled or registered outside of the United States and imported 15 into the United States; or

16 (3) the owner or person claiming ownership requires an 17 assigned or reassigned identification number under Section 501.033 18 [On proper application, the department shall assign a vehicle 19 identification number to a travel trailer, a trailer or 20 semitrailer, a frame, or an item of equipment, including a tractor, 21 farm implement, unit of special mobile equipment, or unit of 22 off-road construction equipment:

23

24 die-stamped by the manufacturer;

25 [(2) on which a vehicle identification number
26 die-stamped by the manufacturer has been lost, removed, or
27 obliterated; or

[(1) on which a vehicle identification number was not

1	[(3) for which a vehicle identification number was
2	never assigned].
3	(b) An active duty member of a branch of the United States
4	armed forces, or an immediate family member of such a member,
5	returning to Texas with acceptable proof of the active duty status
6	is exempt from an identification number inspection required under
7	Subsection (a)(2) [The applicant shall die-stamp the assigned
8	vehicle identification number at the place designated by the
9	department on the travel trailer, trailer, semitrailer, frame, or
10	equipment].
11	SECTION 8. Subchapter B, Chapter 501, Transportation Code,
12	is amended by adding Sections 501.0321 and 501.0322 to read as
13	follows:
14	Sec. 501.0321. IDENTIFICATION NUMBER INSPECTION. (a) An
15	inspection required under Section 501.032 must verify, as
16	applicable, the identity of:
17	(1) a motor vehicle;
18	(2) a trailer or semitrailer;
19	(3) a frame, body, or motor of a motor vehicle; or
20	(4) an item of equipment not required to be titled but
21	that may be registered under Chapter 502 or issued licensed plates
22	under Chapter 504.
23	(b) An inspection under this section may not rely solely on
24	the public identification number to verify the identity.
25	(c) An inspection under this section may be performed only
26	by a person who has successfully completed an appropriate training
27	program as determined by department rule and is:

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1	(1) an auto theft investigator who is a law
2	enforcement officer of this state or a political subdivision of
3	this state;
4	(2) a person working under the direct supervision of a
5	person described by Subdivision (1);
6	(3) an employee of the department authorized by the
7	department to perform an inspection under this section; or
8	(4) an employee of the National Insurance Crime Bureau
9	authorized by the department to perform an inspection under this
10	section.
11	(d) The department shall prescribe a form on which the
12	identification number inspection is to be recorded. The department
13	may provide the form only to a person described by Subsection (c).
14	(e) The department or another entity that provides an
15	inspection under this section may impose a fee of not more than \$40
16	for the inspection. The county or municipal treasurer of a county
17	or municipal entity that provides an inspection under this section
18	shall credit the fee to the general fund of the county or
19	municipality, as applicable, to defray the entity's cost associated
20	with the inspection. If the department provides an inspection
21	under this section, the fee shall be deposited to the credit of the
22	Texas Department of Motor Vehicles fund.
23	(f) The department may not impose a fee for an inspection
24	requested by the department. The department shall include a
25	notification of the waiver to the owner at the time the department
26	requests the identification number inspection.
27	Sec. 501.0322. ALTERNATIVE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER

INSPECTION. The department by rule may establish a process for verifying the identity of an item listed in Section 501.0321(a) as an alternative to an identification number inspection under Section 501.0321. The rules may include the persons authorized to perform the inspection, when an alternative inspection under this section is required, and any fees that may be assessed. Any fee authorized must comply with Sections 501.0321(e) and (f).

8 SECTION 9. Section 501.033, Transportation Code, is amended 9 to read as follows:

Sec. 501.033. ASSIGNMENT REASSIGNMENT OF 10 AND 11 IDENTIFICATION NUMBER BY DEPARTMENT. (a) If the permanent identification number affixed by the manufacturer has been removed, 12 altered, or obliterated, or a permanent identification number was 13 never assigned, the department shall assign an identification 14 number to [A person determined by law enforcement or a court to be 15 the owner of] a motor vehicle, [travel trailer,] semitrailer, [or] 16 trailer, motor [a part of a motor vehicle], [travel trailer, 17 semitrailer, or trailer, a] frame, or body of a motor vehicle, or an 18 item of equipment not required to be titled but that may be 19 20 registered under Chapter 502 or issued license plates under Chapter 504 on inspection under Section 501.0321 and application to the 21 22 department [including a tractor, farm implement, unit of special mobile equipment, or unit of off-road construction equipment may 23 apply to the department for an assigned vehicle identification 24 number that has been removed, altered, obliterated, or has never 25 26 been assigned].

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(b) An application under this section must be in a manner

1 prescribed by the department and accompanied by valid evidence of 2 ownership <u>in the name of, or properly assigned to, the applicant</u> as 3 required by the department.

4 (c) A fee of \$2 must accompany each application under this
5 section to be deposited in the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles
6 fund.

7 (d) The assigned [vehicle] identification number shall be
8 die-stamped or otherwise affixed in the manner <u>and location</u>
9 designated by the department.

10 The department shall reassign an (e) original manufacturer's identification number only if the person who 11 conducts the inspection under Section 501.0321 determines that the 12 permanent identification number affixed by the manufacturer has 13 been removed, altered, or obliterated [If the auto theft unit of a 14 15 county or municipal law enforcement agency conducts an inspection 16 required by the department under this section, the agency may impose a fee of \$40. The county or municipal treasurer shall credit 17 fee to the general fund of the county or municipality, 18 the applicable, to defray the agency's cost associated with 19 the inspection. The fee shall be waived by the department or agency 20 21 imposing the fee if the person applying under this section is the current registered owner]. 22

23		(f)	If	th	е	dep	artı	ment	r	eass	igns	ĉ	n n	lanu	Eact	cure	er's
24	identi	fica	tion	num	ber.	, a	rep	pres	enta	tive	of	the	dep	artm	lent	sh	all
25	affix	the	num	ber	in	a	manı	ner	and	loc	atio	n d	esig	nate	ed 1	by	the
26	depart	ment	<u>.</u>														
27		(a)	Οn	aff	ixir	a	an	ass	iane	d i	dent	ific	atio	n n	numh	her	or

witnessing the affixing of a reassigned identification number, the 1 2 owner or the owner's representative shall certify on a form prescribed by the department that the identification number has 3 been affixed in the manner and location designated by the 4 department and shall submit the form in a manner prescribed by the 5 6 department. 7 (h) Only the department may issue an identification number to a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, motor, frame, or body of a 8 9 motor vehicle, or an item of equipment not required to be titled but that may be registered under Chapter 502 or issued license plates 10 11 under Chapter 504. The department may not recognize an identification number assigned by any other agency or political 12 13 subdivision of this state. SECTION 10. Section 501.036, Transportation 14 Code, is 15 amended to read as follows: 16 Sec. 501.036. TITLE FOR FARM TRAILER OR FARM SEMITRAILER. 17 Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, the (a) department may issue a title for a farm trailer or farm semitrailer 18 with a gross vehicle weight of not more than 34,000 [4,000] pounds 19 if[÷ 20 21 [(1) the farm semitrailer is eligible for registration 22 under Section 502.146; and [(2)] all [other] requirements for issuance of a title 23 24 are met. 25 (b) To obtain a title under this section, the owner [of the farm semitrailer] must: 26 27 (1) apply for the title in the manner required by

1 Section 501.023; and

(2) pay the fee required by Section 501.138.

3 (c) <u>A subsequent purchaser of a farm trailer or farm</u>
4 <u>semitrailer titled previously under this section or in another</u>
5 <u>jurisdiction must obtain a title under</u> [The department shall adopt
6 <u>rules to implement and administer</u>] this section.

7 SECTION 11. Section 501.037, Transportation Code, is 8 amended to read as follows:

9 Sec. 501.037. TITLE FOR TRAILERS <u>OR SEMITRAILERS</u>. 10 (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, the 11 department may issue a title for a trailer <u>or semitrailer</u> that has a 12 gross vehicle weight of 4,000 pounds or less if all other 13 requirements for issuance of a title are met.

14 (b) To obtain a title under this section, the owner of the 15 trailer <u>or semitrailer</u> must:

16 (1) apply for the title in the manner required by17 Section 501.023; and

18

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(2) pay the fee required by Section 501.138.

19 (c) A subsequent purchaser of a trailer or semitrailer 20 titled previously under this section or in another jurisdiction 21 <u>must obtain a title under this section.</u>

22 SECTION 12. Section 501.071(a), Transportation Code, is 23 amended to read as follows:

(a) Except as provided by Sections 503.036 and [in Section]
503.039, a motor vehicle may not be the subject of a subsequent sale
unless the owner designated on the title submits a transfer of
ownership of the title.

1 SECTION 13. Section 501.072, Transportation Code, is
2 amended to read as follows:

Sec. 501.072. ODOMETER DISCLOSURE STATEMENT. (a) Except 3 4 as provided by Subsection (c), the transferor [seller] of a motor vehicle transferred [sold] in this state shall provide to the 5 transferee [buyer, on a form prescribed by the department,] a 6 [written] disclosure of the vehicle's odometer reading at the time 7 of the transfer in compliance with 49 U.S.C. Section 32705 [sale. 8 9 The form must include space for the signature and printed name of both the seller and buyer]. 10

(b) When application for a [certificate of] title is made, the transferee [owner] shall record the [current] odometer reading on the application. The [written] disclosure required by Subsection (a) must accompany the application.

15 (c) An odometer disclosure statement is not required for the 16 <u>transfer</u> [sale] of a motor vehicle that <u>is exempt from odometer</u> 17 <u>disclosure requirements under 49 C.F.R. Part 580[+</u>

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[(1) has a manufacturer's rated carrying capacity of more than two tons;

20 [(2) is not self-propelled;

21 [(3) is 10 or more years old;

22 [(4) is sold directly by the manufacturer to an agency 23 of the United States government in conformity with contractual 24 specifications; or

25 [(5) is a new motor vehicle].

26 (d) The department shall provide for use consistent with 49
27 C.F.R. Part 580:

1	(1) a secure power of attorney form; and
2	(2) a secure reassignment form for licensed motor
3	vehicle dealers.
4	(e) In this section, "transferee" and "transferor" have the
5	meanings assigned by 49 C.F.R. Part 580.
6	SECTION 14. Section 501.091(9), Transportation Code, is
7	amended to read as follows:
8	(9) "Nonrepairable motor vehicle" means a motor
9	vehicle [that]:
10	(A) <u>that</u> is damaged, wrecked, or burned to the
11	extent that the only residual value of the vehicle is as a source of
12	parts or scrap metal; [or]
13	(B) <u>that</u> comes into this state under a comparable
14	ownership document that indicates that the vehicle is
15	nonrepairable <u>;</u>
16	(C) that a salvage vehicle dealer has reported to
17	the department under Section 501.1003;
18	(D) for which an owner has surrendered evidence
19	of ownership for the purpose of dismantling, scrapping, or
20	destroying the motor vehicle; or
21	(E) that is sold for export only under Section
22	<u>501.099</u> .
23	SECTION 15. Section 501.09113(a), Transportation Code, is
24	amended to read as follows:
25	(a) On receipt of a proper application from the owner of a
26	motor vehicle, the department shall issue the applicant the
27	appropriate title with any notations determined by the department

1 <u>as necessary to describe or disclose the motor vehicle's current or</u> 2 <u>former condition if the</u> [This section applies only to a] motor 3 vehicle <u>was</u> brought into this state from another state or 4 jurisdiction <u>and</u> [that] has on any title or comparable out-of-state 5 ownership document issued by the other state or jurisdiction <u>or</u> 6 <u>record in the National Motor Vehicle Title Information System</u> 7 reported by another state or jurisdiction:

8 (1) a "rebuilt," <u>"repaired," "reconstructed," "flood</u> 9 <u>damage," "fire damage," "owner retained,"</u> "salvage," or similar 10 notation; or

11 (2) a "nonrepairable," "dismantle only," "parts 12 only," "junked," "scrapped," <u>"crushed,"</u> or similar notation.

13 SECTION 16. Section 501.097(a), Transportation Code, as 14 amended by Chapters 1136 (H.B. 1422) and 1296 (H.B. 2357), Acts of 15 the 82nd Legislature, Regular Session, 2011, is reenacted to read 16 as follows:

17 (a) An application for a nonrepairable vehicle title,
18 nonrepairable record of title, salvage vehicle title, or salvage
19 record of title must:

20 (1) be made in a manner prescribed by the department21 and accompanied by a \$8 application fee;

(2) include, in addition to any other informationrequired by the department:

24 (A) the name and current address of the owner;25 and

(B) a description of the motor vehicle, includingthe make, style of body, model year, and vehicle identification

1 number; and

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(3) include the name and address of:

3 (A) any currently recorded lienholder, if the4 motor vehicle is a nonrepairable motor vehicle; or

5 (B) any currently recorded lienholder or a new6 lienholder, if the motor vehicle is a salvage motor vehicle.

SECTION 17. Section 501.1001(a), Transportation Code, as amended by Chapters 1136 (H.B. 1422) and 1296 (H.B. 2357), Acts of the 82nd Legislature, Regular Session, 2011, is reenacted and amended to read as follows:

11 (a) Except as provided by Section 501.0925, an insurance company that is licensed to conduct business in this state and that 12 13 acquires, through payment of a claim, ownership or possession of a salvage motor vehicle or nonrepairable motor vehicle [covered by a 14 15 certificate of title issued by this state or a manufacturer's 16 certificate of origin] shall surrender the [a] properly assigned evidence of ownership and apply for the appropriate title under 17 18 Section 501.097 [title or manufacturer's certificate of origin to the department, on a form prescribed by the department]. 19

20 SECTION 18. Section 501.1002(a), Transportation Code, as 21 amended by Chapters 1136 (H.B. 1422) and 1296 (H.B. 2357), Acts of 22 the 82nd Legislature, Regular Session, 2011, is reenacted to read 23 as follows:

(a) If an insurance company pays a claim on a nonrepairable
motor vehicle or salvage motor vehicle and the insurance company
does not acquire ownership of the motor vehicle, the insurance
company shall:

1 submit to the department, before the 31st day (1)2 after the date of the payment of the claim, on the form prescribed by the department, a report stating that the insurance company: 3 4 (A) has paid a claim on the motor vehicle; and 5 (B) has not acquired ownership of the motor vehicle; and 6 provide notice to the owner of the motor vehicle 7 (2) of: 8 9 (A) the report required under Subdivision (1); 10 and 11 (B) the requirements for operation or transfer of ownership of the motor vehicle under Subsection (b). 12 13 SECTION 19. Section 501.1002(b), Transportation Code, is amended to read as follows: 14 15 The owner of a salvage or nonrepairable motor vehicle (b) 16 [to which this section applies] may not [operate or permit operation of the motor vehicle on a public highway or] transfer 17 18 ownership of the motor vehicle by sale or otherwise unless the department has issued a salvage vehicle title, salvage record of 19 title, nonrepairable vehicle title, or nonrepairable record of 20 title for the motor vehicle or a comparable ownership document has 21 been issued by another state or jurisdiction for the motor vehicle 22 in the name of the owner. 23 Section 501.109, 24 SECTION 20. Transportation Code, is 25 amended by amending Subsections (d) and (e) and adding Subsections

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26 (g) and (h) to read as follows:

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(d) Except as provided by Subsection (e), an offense under

S.B. No. 2076 Subsection (a), (b), or (c) [this section] is a Class C misdemeanor. 1 If it is shown on the trial of an offense under 2 (e) Subsection (a), (b), or (c) [this section] that the defendant has 3 been previously convicted of: 4 5 (1) one offense under Subsection (a), (b), or (c) [this section], the offense is a Class B misdemeanor; or 6 7 (2) two or more offenses under <u>Subsection (a)</u>, (b), or (c) [this section], the offense is a state jail felony. 8 9 (g) A person commits an offense if the person knowingly provides false or incorrect information or without legal authority 10 signs the name of another person on: 11 (1) an application for a title to a nonrepairable 12 13 motor vehicle or salvage motor vehicle; (2) an application for a certified copy of an original 14 15 title to a nonrepairable motor vehicle or salvage motor vehicle; 16 (3) an assignment of title for a nonrepairable motor 17 vehicle or salvage motor vehicle; 18 (4) a discharge of a lien on a title for a nonrepairable motor vehicle or salvage motor vehicle; or 19 20 (5) any other document required by the department or necessary for the transfer of ownership of a nonrepairable motor 21 vehicle or salvage motor vehicle. 22 (h) An offense under Subsection (g) is a felony of the third 23 24 degree. 25 SECTION 21. Effective January 1, 2019, the heading to Section 501.134, Transportation Code, is amended to read as 26 27 follows:

1 Sec. 501.134. <u>CERTIFIED COPY OF</u> LOST OR DESTROYED 2 CERTIFICATE OF TITLE.

3 SECTION 22. Effective January 1, 2019, Sections 501.134(a), 4 (b), (c), and (d), Transportation Code, are amended to read as 5 follows:

6 If a printed title is lost or destroyed, the owner or (a) 7 lienholder disclosed on the title may obtain, in the manner provided by this section and department rule, a certified copy of 8 9 the lost or destroyed title directly from the department by applying in a manner prescribed by the department and paying a fee 10 of \$2. A fee collected under this subsection shall be deposited to 11 the credit of the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles fund [and may 12 be spent only as provided by Section 501.138]. 13

(b) If a lien is disclosed on a title, the department may issue a certified copy of the [original] title only to the first lienholder or the lienholder's verified agent <u>unless the owner has</u> original proof from the lienholder of lien satisfaction.

18 (c) The department must plainly mark "certified copy" on the 19 face of a certified copy issued under this section. [A subsequent 20 purchaser or lienholder of the vehicle only acquires the rights, 21 title, or interest in the vehicle held by the holder of the 22 certified copy.]

(d) <u>A certified copy of the title that is lawfully obtained</u> under this section supersedes and invalidates any previously issued title or certified copy. If the certified copy of the title is later rescinded, canceled, or revoked under Section 501.051, the department may revalidate a previously superseded or invalidated

title or certified copy of title [A purchaser or lienholder of a 1 2 motor vehicle having a certified copy issued under this section may at the time of the purchase or establishment of the lien require 3 that the seller or owner indemnify the purchaser or lienholder and 4 all subsequent purchasers of the vehicle against any loss the 5 6 person may suffer because of a claim presented on the original 7 title]. SECTION 23. Section 541.201(5), Transportation Code, 8 is 9 amended to read as follows: (5) 10 "House trailer" means a trailer or semitrailer, 11 other than a towable recreational vehicle, that: 12 is transportable on a highway in one or more (A) 13 sections; (B) is less than 45 [40] feet in 14 length, 15 excluding tow bar, while in the traveling mode; 16 (C) is built on a permanent chassis; 17 is designed to be used as a dwelling or for (D) commercial purposes if connected to required utilities; and 18 (E) 19 includes plumbing, heating, 20 air-conditioning, and electrical systems. SECTION 24. The following provisions of the Transportation 21 Code are repealed: 22 (1) Sections 501.032(c) and (d); and 23 (2) Section 501.09113(b). 24 SECTION 25. Except as otherwise provided by this Act, this 25 Act takes effect September 1, 2017. 26