By: Zerwas H.B. No. 2048

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT
relating to the repeal of the driver responsibility program and the
amount and allocation of state traffic fine funds; eliminating
program surcharges; authorizing and increasing criminal fines;
increasing a fee.

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

SECTION 1. Article 102.022(a), Code of Criminal Procedure,
is amended to read as follows:

(a) In this article, "moving violation" means an offense
that:

(1) involves the operation of a motor vehicle; and
(2) is classified as a moving violation by the
Department of Public Safety under Section 542.304 [708.052],
Transportation Code.

SECTION 2. Section 1001.112, Education Code, is amended by
amending Subsection (a-1) and adding Subsection (a-2) to read as
follows:

(a-1) The rules must provide that the student driver spend a
minimum number of hours in classroom and behind-the-wheel
instruction.

(a-2) The rules must provide [and] that the person
conducting the course:

(1) possess a valid license for the preceding three
years that has not been suspended, revoked, or forfeited in the past
three years for an offense that involves the operation of a motor
vehicle;

(2) has not been convicted of:
(A) criminally negligent homicide; or
(B) driving while intoxicated in the past seven
years; and

(3) has not been convicted during the preceding three
years of:
(A) three or more moving violations described by
Section 542.304, Transportation Code, including violations that
resulted in an accident; or
(B) two or more moving violations described by
Section 542.304, Transportation Code, that resulted in an accident
[does not have six or more points assigned to the person's driver's
license under Subchapter B, Chapter 708, Transportation Code, at
the time the person begins conducting the course].

SECTION 3. Section 411.110(f), Government Code, is amended
to read as follows:

(f) The Department of State Health Services may not consider
offenses described by [for which points are assessed under] Section
542.304 [708.052], Transportation Code, to determine whether to
hire or retain an employee or to contract with a person on whom
criminal history record information is obtained under this section.

SECTION 4. Section 773.0614(b), Health and Safety Code, is
amended to read as follows:

(b) For purposes of Subsection (a), the department may not
consider offenses described by [for which points are assessed
Section 542.304 [708.052], Transportation Code.

SECTION 5. Section 773.06141(a), Health and Safety Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) The department may suspend, revoke, or deny an emergency medical services provider license on the grounds that the provider's administrator of record, employee, or other representative:

(1) has been convicted of, or placed on deferred adjudication community supervision or deferred disposition for, an offense that directly relates to the duties and responsibilities of the administrator, employee, or representative, other than an offense described by [for which points are assigned under] Section 542.304 [708.052], Transportation Code;

(2) has been convicted of or placed on deferred adjudication community supervision or deferred disposition for an offense, including:

(A) an offense listed in Article 42A.054(a)(2), (3), (4), (6), (7), (8), (10), or (14), Code of Criminal Procedure; or

(B) an offense, other than an offense described by Subdivision (1), for which the person is subject to registration under Chapter 62, Code of Criminal Procedure; or

(3) has been convicted of Medicare or Medicaid fraud, has been excluded from participation in the state Medicaid program, or has a hold on payment for reimbursement under the state Medicaid program under Subchapter C, Chapter 531, Government Code.

SECTION 6. Section 780.002, Health and Safety Code, is
amended to read as follows:

Sec. 780.002. CERTAIN DEPOSITS TO ACCOUNT. The comptroller shall deposit any gifts, grants, donations, and legislative appropriations made for the purposes of the designated trauma facility and emergency medical services account established under Section 780.003 to the credit of the account. [(a) On the first Monday of each month, the Department of Public Safety shall remit the surcharges collected during the previous month under the driver responsibility program operated by that department under Chapter 708, Transportation Code, to the comptroller. [(b) The comptroller shall deposit 49.5 percent of the money received under Subsection (a) to the credit of the account established under this chapter and 49.5 percent of the money to the general revenue fund. The remaining one percent of the amount of the surcharges shall be deposited to the general revenue fund and may be appropriated only to the Department of Public Safety for administration of the driver responsibility program operated by that department under Chapter 708, Transportation Code. [(c) Notwithstanding Subsection (b), in any state fiscal year the comptroller shall deposit 49.5 percent of the surcharges collected under Chapter 708, Transportation Code, to the credit of the general revenue fund only until the total amount of the surcharges deposited to the credit of the general revenue fund under Subsection (b), and the state traffic fines deposited to the credit of that fund under Section 542.4031(g)(1), Transportation Code, equals $250 million for that year. If in any state fiscal year the amount received by the comptroller under those laws for
deposit to the credit of the general revenue fund exceeds $250 million, the comptroller shall deposit the additional amount to the credit of the Texas mobility fund.)

SECTION 7. Section 780.003(b), Health and Safety Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b) The account is composed of money deposited to the credit of the account under Sections 542.4031, 542.406, 707.008, and 709.002, Transportation Code, and under Section 780.002 of this code.

SECTION 8. Sections 10(b) and (e), Article 4413(37), Revised Statutes, are amended to read as follows:

(b) An insurer shall pay to the authority a fee equal to $4 multiplied by the total number of motor vehicle years of insurance for insurance policies delivered, issued for delivery, or renewed by the insurer. The fee shall be paid not later than:

1. March 1 of each year for a policy issued, delivered, or renewed from July 1 through December 31 of the previous calendar year; and
2. August 1 of each year for a policy issued, delivered, or renewed from January 1 through June 30 of that year.

(e) Out of each fee collected under Subsection (b):

1. 20 percent shall be appropriated to the authority for the purposes of this article;
2. 20 percent shall be deposited to the credit of the general revenue fund; and
3. 60 percent shall be deposited to the credit of the
SECTION 9. Section 502.357(b), Transportation Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b) Fees collected under this section shall be deposited to the credit of the state highway fund except that the comptroller shall provide for a portion of the fees to be deposited first to the credit of a special fund in the state treasury outside the general revenue fund to be known as the TexasSure Fund in a total amount that is necessary to cover the total amount appropriated to the Texas Department of Insurance from that fund and for the remaining fees to be deposited to the state highway fund. Subject to appropriations, the money deposited to the credit of the state highway fund under this section may be used by the Department of Public Safety to:

(1) support the Department of Public Safety's reengineering of the driver's license system to provide for the issuance by the Department of Public Safety of a driver's license or personal identification certificate, to include use of image comparison technology; and

(2) establish and maintain a system to support the driver responsibility program under Chapter 708; and

[added] make lease payments to the master lease purchase program for the financing of the driver's license reengineering project.

SECTION 10. Subchapter C, Chapter 542, Transportation Code, is amended by adding Section 542.304 to read as follows:

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Sec. 542.304. MOVING VIOLATIONS FOR CERTAIN PURPOSES. (a) The department by rule shall designate the offenses involving the operation of a motor vehicle that constitute a moving violation of the traffic law for the purposes of:

(1) Article 102.022(a), Code of Criminal Procedure;
(2) Section 1001.112(a-2), Education Code;
(3) Section 411.110(f), Government Code; and
(4) Sections 773.0614(b) and 773.06141(a), Health and Safety Code.

(b) The rules must provide that for the purposes of the provisions described in Subsection (a), moving violations:

(1) include:
   (A) a violation of the traffic law of this state, another state, or a political subdivision of this or another state; and
   (B) an offense under Section 545.412; and

(2) do not include:
   (A) an offense committed before September 1, 2003;
   (B) the offense of speeding when the person convicted was at the time of the offense driving less than 10 percent faster than the posted speed limit, unless the person committed the offense in a school crossing zone;
   (C) an offense adjudicated under Article 45.051 or 45.0511, Code of Criminal Procedure; or
   (D) an offense under Section 545.4251.

SECTION 11. Sections 542.4031(a), (f), (g), and (h),
Transportation Code, are amended to read as follows:

(a) In addition to the fine prescribed by Section 542.401 or another section of this subtitle, as applicable, a person who enters a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to or is convicted of an offense under this subtitle shall pay $50 [§30] as a state traffic fine. The person shall pay the state traffic fine when the person enters the person's plea of guilty or nolo contendere, or on the date of conviction, whichever is earlier. The state traffic fine shall be paid regardless of whether:

(1) a sentence is imposed on the person;

(2) the court defers final disposition of the person's case; or

(3) the person is placed on community supervision, including deferred adjudication community supervision.

(f) A municipality or county may retain four [five] percent of the money collected under this section as a service fee for the collection if the municipality or county remits the funds to the comptroller within the period prescribed in Subsection (e). The municipality or county may retain any interest accrued on the money if the custodian of the money deposited in the treasury keeps records of the amount of money collected under this section that is on deposit in the treasury and remits the funds to the comptroller within the period prescribed in Subsection (e).

(g) Of the money received by the comptroller under this section, the comptroller shall deposit:

(1) 70 [62] percent to the credit of the undedicated portion of the general revenue fund; and
(2) 30\% of the money received under Subsection (e)(2) to the credit of the designated trauma facility and emergency medical services account under Section 780.003, Health and Safety Code.

(h) Notwithstanding Subsection (g)(1), in any state fiscal year the comptroller shall deposit 70\% of the money received under Subsection (e)(2) to the credit of the general revenue fund only until the total amount of the money deposited to the credit of the general revenue fund under Subsection (g)(1) equals $250 million for that year. If in any state fiscal year the amount received by the comptroller under Subsection (e)(2) for deposit to the credit of the general revenue fund under Subsection (g)(1) exceeds $250 million, the comptroller shall deposit the additional amount to the credit of the Texas mobility fund.

SECTION 12. Section 601.233(a), Transportation Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) A citation for an offense under Section 601.191 issued as a result of Section 601.053 must include, in type larger than other type on the citation, the following statement:

"A second or subsequent conviction of an offense under the Texas Motor Vehicle Safety Responsibility Act will result in the suspension of your driver's license and motor vehicle registration unless you file and maintain evidence of financial responsibility with the Department of Public Safety for two years from the date of conviction. The department may waive the requirement to file evidence of financial responsibility if you file satisfactory..."
evidence with the department showing that at the time this citation was issued, the vehicle was covered by a motor vehicle liability insurance policy or that you were otherwise exempt from the requirements to provide evidence of financial responsibility."

SECTION 13. Subtitle I, Title 7, Transportation Code, is amended by adding Chapter 709 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 709. MISCELLANEOUS TRAFFIC FINES

Sec. 709.001. TRAFFIC FINE FOR CONVICTION OF CERTAIN INTOXICATED DRIVER OFFENSES. (a) In this section, "offense relating to the operating of a motor vehicle while intoxicated" has the meaning assigned by Section 49.09, Penal Code.

(b) In addition to the fine prescribed for the specific offense, a person who has been finally convicted of an offense relating to the operating of a motor vehicle while intoxicated shall pay a fine of:

(1) $3,000 for the first conviction within a 36-month period;

(2) $4,500 for a second or subsequent conviction within a 36-month period; and

(3) $6,000 for a first or subsequent conviction if it is shown on the trial of the offense that an analysis of a specimen of the person's blood, breath, or urine showed an alcohol concentration level of 0.16 or more at the time the analysis was performed.

Sec. 709.002. REMITTANCE OF TRAFFIC FINES COLLECTED TO COMPTROLLER. (a) An officer collecting a traffic fine under Section 709.001 in a case in a justice, county, or district court
shall keep separate records of the money collected and shall
deposit the money in the county treasury.

(b) Each calendar quarter, an officer collecting a traffic
fine under Section 709.001 shall submit a report to the
comptroller. The report must comply with Articles 103.005(c) and
(d), Code of Criminal Procedure.

(c) The custodian of money in a municipal or county treasury
may deposit money collected under Section 709.001 in an
interest-bearing account. The custodian shall:

(1) keep records of the amount of money collected
under this section that is on deposit in the treasury; and

(2) not later than the last day of the month following
each calendar quarter, remit to the comptroller money collected
under this section during the preceding quarter, as required by the
comptroller.

(d) A municipality or county may retain four percent of the
money collected under Section 709.001 as a service fee for the
collection if the county remits the funds to the comptroller within
the period described by Subsection (c). The municipality or county
may retain any interest accrued on the money if the custodian of the
money deposited in the treasury keeps records of the amount of money
collected under this section that is on deposit in the treasury and
remits the funds to the comptroller within the period prescribed in
Subsection (c).

(e) Of the money received by the comptroller under this
section, the comptroller shall deposit:

(1) 70 percent to the credit of the undedicated
portion of the general revenue fund; and

(2) 30 percent to the credit of the designated trauma facility and emergency medical services account under Section 780.003, Health and Safety Code.

(f) Money collected under this section is subject to audit by the comptroller. Money spent is subject to audit by the state auditor.

SECTION 14. Chapter 708, Transportation Code, is repealed.

SECTION 15. (a) The repeal by this Act of Chapter 708, Transportation Code, applies to any surcharge pending on the effective date of this Act, regardless of whether the surcharge was imposed before that date.

(b) The Department of Public Safety shall reinstate any driver's license that is suspended under Section 708.152, Transportation Code, as of the effective date of this Act if the only reason the driver's license was suspended is a failure to pay a surcharge under Chapter 708, Transportation Code.

SECTION 16. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.