

AN ACT

relating to a defense to prosecution for the criminal offense of operating a vehicle with an expired license plate.

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

SECTION 1. Section 502.407, Transportation Code, is amended by adding Subsection (c) to read as follows:

(c) It is a defense to prosecution under this section that at the time of the offense:

(1) the office of the county assessor-collector for the county in which the owner of the vehicle resided was closed for a protracted period of time in accordance with Section 502.040(b)(2); and

(2) the vehicle's registration was expired for 30 working days or less.

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

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 2835 was passed by the House on May 10, 2019, by the following vote: Yeas 129, Nays 0, 1 present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 2835 was passed by the Senate on May 22, 2019, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor