

By: Hall

S.B. No. 2144

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to creating the offense of causing an accident resulting in personal injury or death while operating a motor vehicle without a license; providing a penalty.

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

SECTION 1. Section 521.021, Transportation Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 521.021. LICENSE REQUIRED. (a) A person, other than a person expressly exempted under this chapter, may not operate a motor vehicle on a highway in this state unless the person holds a driver's license issued under this chapter.

(b) Except as provided by Subsection (c), a person who is involved in an accident covered by Section 550.021 while operating a motor vehicle in violation of Subsection (a) commits an offense.

An offense under this subsection:

(1) involving an accident resulting in:

(A) the death of a person is a felony of the second degree; or

(B) serious bodily injury, as defined by Section 1.07, Penal Code, to a person is a felony of the third degree; and

(2) involving an accident resulting in injury to which Subdivision (1) does not apply is punishable by:

(A) imprisonment in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice for not more than five years or confinement in the

1 county jail for not more than one year;

2 (B) a fine not to exceed \$5,000; or

3 (C) both the fine and the imprisonment or
4 confinement.

5 (c) It is an affirmative defense to liability under
6 Subsection (b) that the person operating a motor vehicle in
7 violation of Subsection (a) at the time of the violation held a
8 driver's license that was suspended under Section [708.152](#).

9 (d) Subsection (b) does not apply to a person operating a
10 motor vehicle in violation of Subsection (a) who, at the time of the
11 violation, held a driver's license that was suspended under Section
12 [708.152](#).

13 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.