

By: Goodwin

H.B. No. 1946

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the designation of highway safety corridors; increasing
a fine.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter K, Chapter 201, Transportation Code,
is amended by adding Section 201.9051 to read as follows:

Sec. 201.9051. HIGHWAY SAFETY CORRIDOR. (a) The
department shall designate as a highway safety corridor a portion
of a roadway containing a site with a high number of traffic
fatalities, as identified by the governing body of the municipality
or county in whose jurisdiction the site is located.

(b) The department shall erect a sign at each end of the
highway safety corridor and at appropriate intermediate sites along
the corridor:

(1) indicating that it is a highway safety corridor;
and

(2) stating "Fines double: highway safety corridor."

(c) The department may distribute literature to the public
concerning highway safety corridors designated under this section.

(d) The commission by rule shall establish processes for the
governing body of a municipality or county to:

(1) identify sites with high numbers of traffic
fatalities; and

(2) inform the department of sites identified under

1 Subdivision (1) for designation as a highway safety corridor.

2 SECTION 2. Subchapter D, Chapter 542, Transportation Code,
3 is amended by adding Section 542.4046 to read as follows:

4 Sec. 542.4046. FINE FOR OFFENSE IN HIGHWAY SAFETY CORRIDOR.

5 (a) In this section, "highway safety corridor" means a portion of a
6 roadway designated by the department in accordance with Section
7 201.9051.

8 (b) If an offense under this subtitle, other than an offense
9 under Chapter 548 or 552 or Section 545.412 or 545.413, is committed
10 in a highway safety corridor:

11 (1) the minimum fine applicable to the offense is
12 twice the minimum fine that would be applicable to the offense if it
13 were committed outside a highway safety corridor; and

14 (2) the maximum fine applicable to the offense is
15 twice the maximum fine that would be applicable to the offense if it
16 were committed outside a highway safety corridor.

17 SECTION 3. As soon as practicable after the effective date
18 of this Act, the Texas Department of Transportation by rule shall
19 establish the processes required by Section 201.9051(d),
20 Transportation Code, as added by this Act.

21 SECTION 4. The change in law made by this Act applies only
22 to an offense committed on or after the effective date of this Act.
23 An offense committed before the effective date of this Act is
24 covered by the law in effect immediately before the effective date
25 of this Act, and the former law is continued in effect for that
26 purpose. For purposes of this section, an offense was committed
27 before the effective date of this Act if any element of the offense

1 was committed before that date.

2 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.