By:  Guerra (Senate Sponsor - Alvarado) H.B. No. 2170

(In the Senate - Received from the House May 3, 2023; May 5, 2023, read first time and referred to Committee on Transportation; May 17, 2023, reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 9, Nays 0; May 17, 2023, sent to printer.)

COMMITTEE VOTE

                 Yea Nay Absent  PNV

Nichols           X

West              X

Alvarado          X

Eckhardt          X

Hancock           X

King              X

Miles             X

Parker            X

Perry             X

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to toll collections by a toll project entity.

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

SECTION 1.  Subchapter B, Chapter 372, Transportation Code, is amended by adding Section 372.0555 to read as follows:

Sec. 372.0555.  NOTICE OF RETURNED PAYMENT. A toll project entity must immediately notify the holder of an electronic toll collection customer account that a payment by the credit card or debit card associated with the account was declined or could not otherwise be processed.

SECTION 2.  Section 372.056, Transportation Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 372.056.  INFORMATION REQUIRED ON NOTICE OR INVOICE. (a) A notice or an invoice of unpaid tolls sent by a toll project entity must clearly state that the document is a bill and the recipient is expected to pay the amount indicated.

(b)  A notice or an invoice of unpaid tolls sent by first class mail must clearly indicate on the outside of the envelope that the document enclosed is a bill and the recipient is expected to pay the amount indicated.

SECTION 3.  Section 372.057(a), Transportation Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a)  An invoice or notice provided to a person by a toll project entity may be provided by:

(1)  first class mail; [~~or~~]

(2)  e-mail if the person has provided an e-mail address to the entity and has elected to receive notice electronically; or

(3)  text message if the person has provided a phone number to the entity and has elected to receive notice by text message.

SECTION 4.  The change in law made by this Act applies only to the collection of a toll incurred on or after the effective date of this Act. The collection of a toll incurred before the effective date of this Act is governed by the law in effect immediately before the effective date of this Act, and that law is continued in effect for that purpose.

SECTION 5.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.

\* \* \* \* \*