

By: Blanco, Campbell

S.B. No. 653

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to certain offenses regarding parking privileges of veterans with disabilities.

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

SECTION 1. Section 681.011, Transportation Code, is amended by adding Subsections (m), (n), and (o) to read as follows:

(m) Subsections (n) and (o) apply only to a person who commits an offense under Subsection (b) when the vehicle:

(1) displays special license plates issued under Section 504.202 other than special license plates issued under Section 504.202(b-1); and

(2) does not display a disabled parking placard.

(n) Notwithstanding Subsections (g)-(k), an offense described by Subsection (m) is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not less than \$25 or more than \$200 or not more than 10 hours of community service, except that:

(1) if the person has previously been convicted one time of an offense described by Subsection (m) or received a dismissal under Subsection (o), the offense is punishable by:

(A) a fine of not less than \$200 or more than \$400; or

(B) not less than 10 hours or more than 20 hours of community service; and

(2) if the person has previously been convicted two

1 times of an offense described by Subsection (m) or if the person has
2 previously received a dismissal under Subsection (o) and previously
3 been convicted one time of an offense described by Subsection (m),
4 the offense is punishable by:

5 (A) a fine of not less than \$400 or more than
6 \$750; or

7 (B) not less than 20 hours or more than 30 hours
8 of community service.

9 (o) The court shall dismiss a charge for an offense
10 described by Subsection (m) if the person:

11 (1) has not been previously convicted of an offense
12 described by that subsection;

13 (2) has not previously received a dismissal under this
14 subsection; and

15 (3) submits an application for a specialty license
16 plate that includes the symbol described by Section 504.201(f)
17 within six months after the date the person was charged with the
18 offense.

19 SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies only
20 to an offense committed on or after the effective date of this Act.
21 An offense committed before the effective date of this Act is
22 governed by the law in effect on the date the offense was committed,
23 and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose. For
24 purposes of this section, an offense was committed before the
25 effective date of this Act if any element of the offense occurred
26 before that date.

27 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.