

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Transportation  
For HB 718

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Hearing Date: March 29, 2023 10:30 AM - or upon final adjourn./recess or bill referral if permission granted

Tierney Ward  
Terrin Solbring  
Bryan, TX

My cousin died due to a reckless driver with a fake paper plate. He would still be alive if the issue was resolved when it was needed in the first place.

James Ward  
Self  
New Braunfel a, TX

If HGTV can limit me to 1 entry a day for a dream home, the State of Texas should be able to place limits on registration plates.

Suzanne Andrews  
self  
Pflugerville, TX

In favor of this bill in honor of my nephew, Terrin Solbrig, who lost his life due to someone driving with expired paper tags

Patricia Ward  
Self  
New braunsfel, TX

Let's lead the country on this one instead of bring up the rear. This needs to stop

Ann Cockerham  
Terrin Solbrig  
La Marque, TX

This bill needs to pass. The man that killed Terrin Solbrig got away with murder. He had these fake plates on his truck, no insurance and no drivers license. He didn't ever go to jail either. He is not the first person to die behind a non traceable fake license plate either. Pass this bill to protect others

Shayne Bossard  
Self / Terrin Solbrig family  
San Antonio, TX

Relating to the issuance of temporary tags and license plates by a motor vehicle dealer.

Stephanie Bolton  
Terrin solbrig  
New braunfels, TX

My nephew Terrin Solbrig was hit and killed by a man with illegal and fake paper tags. This didn't have to happen. Terrin didn't have to lose his life. My sister didn't have to bury her baby boy. Texas failed every Texan. The enormous scale this has hit effects everyone. People have died and they have been victimized. Texas can stop this by putting in place laws and policies that punish the criminals. We have the power and technology to make it harder for criminals to get their hands on these illegal tags. No other family should have to suffer due to the state's negligence. We live this nightmare everyday.

Jamie Oyer  
Self  
Fort Worth, TX

My cousin Terrin lost his life because of this! This should be handled.

Jessica Fiew  
Self  
Godley, TX

I am in favor of this in regards to Terrin Solbrig.

DJ Van  
I AM A VOTER!  
San Benito, TX

WOW! Are you on drugs? These bills HB101, HB2795, HJR144, HB2795, HB3418, HB2224, HJR144 would greatly burden Texans in the midst of inflation, ridiculous gas prices, NO BABY FORMULA, CRT BEING TAUGHT IN OUR SCHOOLS. Why don't you pass HB2709? Wow how in the world did you get in office and what a waste of time on behalf of us Texans. This is from the Rio Grande Valley.

Travis Ward  
Personal  
Azle, TX

My nephew Terrin Solbrig was killed when he was hit head-on by a F250 with fictitious paper tags the driver bought online. The driver was not even given a no insurance ticket, which he did not have either. The driver had no business operating an unregistered, uninsured and uninspected vehicle on the road. Texas owes it to Texans to do the right thing and stop this. These paper tags are not only affecting Texans but American across the country. Texas leads the way in everything we do, and allowing criminals to remain anonymous by buying fake tags online is disgraceful. #TerrinSolbrigAct should be passed and not delayed another single day to stop the pain that was inflicted on our family.

Mike Bradburn, Corporal  
Travis County Constable Precinct 3  
Austin, TX

Good morning, Mr. Chairman, and members of the committee. My name is Mike Bradburn, I am a Corporal with the Travis County Precinct 3 Clean Air Task Force. I have been investigating temporary tag abuse for the last 5 years. I am writing in support of HB 718.

Texas temporary tags are used in all forms of criminal activity to include auto theft, murder, and human trafficking. In addition, unsafe cars that cannot pass a safety inspection are being operated with fake paper tags. This puts us all at risk. Both real and fraudulent Texas temporary tags are being abused at the national level.

In 2021 there were 17 independent licensed dealers that created and illegally distributed approximately 1.2 million buyer tags. This group created approximately 36 % of all buyer tags that were created by independent dealers in 2021. This does not consider other dealers that were not part of our investigation that also abused the tag system.

At the beginning of 2022, DMV began turning off criminal dealer's tag access. We no longer see 25,000 buyer tags being illegally distributed each week that return in TLETS. We do see licensed dealers still distributing or abusing tags, but lower numbers. The main problem switched to fake tags that anybody can create on a computer. Given the fact most of these tags do not return when you run them in law enforcement data bases, there is no real way to track how many fake tags are on the roadways.

The Texas Department of Motor Vehicles has made many positive changes to the tag format, yet criminals easily adapted to include manipulating the QR code being used on paper tags. This has confused many in law enforcement.

While getting rid of all paper tags may be a solution to a very real problem, there are many things to consider including the following questions:

1. HB 3927 gave TXDMV the authority to turn off a criminal dealers e-tag access. If you remove paper plates and require TXDMV to convert to metal plates, will DMV need a new bill granting them the authority to turn off a criminal dealer's access when the metal plates are abuse? If not, we could see a rebirth of additional licensed dealers abusing the system.
2. What checks and balances will be used to ensure a dealer's compliance with their allotment of metal license plates to include monitoring their inventory?
3. If a licensed dealer abuses the metal plates, who will be responsible for physically collecting the dealer's allotment of metal plates from a potential criminal dealers licensed location? TxDMV Investigators are not peace officers.
4. Will the legislature return the funding this session to refund task forces that were focused on emissions related issues to include temporary tag abuse.

If the state cannot find a way to get rid of all paper tags, I urge you to find a way to get rid of the generic dealer agent tag. This is a generic tag that can be used on any vehicle because it does not contain any vehicle specific information and is easily copied.

Lena Votion  
Terrin Solbrig  
Converse, TX

I support this bill in memory of Terrin Solbrig.

Barbara Ott-Slaven  
Self/educator  
New Braunfels, TX

I support this bill. All drivers need to adhere to the same rules and fees. Also, it is a travesty that Texas resident Terrin Solbrig was killed by someone who should never have been driving that day. Protect our citizens and restore some kind of order.

Carolyn Zunker  
Self/ account executive  
New Braunfels, TX

Please, please do the right thing!!! Terrin Solbrig might be alive if this bill had been in place.

Peri Ikels  
Self  
Hutto, TX

In support of Terrin Solbrig, a vibrant, strapping and healthy 18 year old young man who was struck down and killed on a bright and sunny Sunday afternoon while enjoying the day with his buddies by a man in an unregistered pickup with fake temp tags. Vehicle shouldn't have been allowed on the run. Terrin would be here today, if this black market practice had been prevented through stricter measures by the state.

Brian Lynch, Mr  
self  
Austin, TX

I am asking you to oppose TX-HB 71 (digital driver's licenses) and TX-HB 3573 (allows 'stablecoin' to be treated as central bank digital currency, or CBDC), and vote against them.

Technology has expanded the power of government's ability so engage in unconstitutional surveillance and monitoring of people.

I believe it is more important to protect liberty and preserve the rights of citizens. Maximizing the Efficiency and effectiveness of government at the expense of rights and liberty is how Communist China is run today, and how National Socialist Germany was run from 1933 to 1945. This is America, a nation founded on opposition to such governance.

Digital Identification systems, including Digital Drivers licenses may seem innocuous but they can store and link to vast databases containing personal data and that can lead to an enormous undermining of people's freedoms and rights. The best intentions and efforts to date have not prevented damaging data thefts by nefarious people and entities.

Digital identifiers are the way in which governments and corporations discriminate based on any number of political, economic, or even social metrics.

Combining Digital ID's with Central Bank Digital Currencies (which are unlike private digital currency that maintains anonymous transactions, have limited counterparty risk), and you create a surveillance state with a full public/ethical ledger of transactions.

CBDC's are programmable and can be used to discriminate using a Digital ID, based on location, purchase type, or any other subjective political reason.

Additionally, CBDCs have no real assets backing their value, and will result in unlimited inflation that leads to continual reduction in the value of our time and labor.

Therefore I ask that you oppose and vote against both TX-HB71 and TX-HB 3573.

Sincere Thanks,  
- Brian Lynch

David Kohler

Self

Elgin, TX

Good morning Honorable Members of the House Transportation Committee,

My name is David Kohler. I am a law enforcement officer here in Travis County, representing myself, and I am here today to speak on my support for HB 718.

While printing out a piece of paper is convenient, it unfortunately has led us here today.

A temporary tag, in the hands of the wrong people that can be manipulated through computer software, can be catastrophic.

Temporary tags can be manipulated in the following methods:

- The character sequence can be manipulated
- The expiration date can be manipulated
- The seller's name can be manipulated
- The type of tag can be manipulated
- The QR code can be manipulated
- The geometric symbol can be manipulated
- The make of the vehicle can be manipulated

These are just a few examples of altered tags that can be used on motor vehicles to be used in the commission of various crimes such as murder, attempted Capital Murder of a District Court Judge, kidnapping, human trafficking, drug trafficking, bank juggling, robbery, to avoid motor vehicle safety and emissions testing, to be used on salvage motor vehicle and avoid toll road fees.

I want to thank Rep. Goldman for submitting this bill when no one else has.

I ask for your committee support of HB 718 to see that the bill makes it out of committee.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

David Kohler

Red Sanders

Self, Film Producer

Fort Worth, TX

I would like to state my support of this bill and urge the committee to pass it. My wife was the victim of a hit and run in Ft Worth last year in Rep. Goldman's district. The car had temporary tags which the police ran and found to be fraudulent so they said there's really nothing they can do to investigate it or track down the offender. They said there's probably 250 cars out there with the same paper tags since the issue of fraudulent paper tags has grown so large. I confirmed this with FWPD's Real Time Crime Center in Ft Worth who has license plate recognition cameras throughout the city and they see the fake paper tags as a major hindrance in tracking down criminals. Thank you for your consideration of Rep. Goldman's bill.

Lisa Printy

Self - unemployed

New Braunfels, TX

For Terrin Solbrig

Tamar Dudley

Self

Converse, TX

For

James Ward

Myself

New Braunfels, TX

I support this Bill. My nephew, Trrrin Solbrig, died because of lax rules that allowed a vehicle on the road that never should have been!