

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Transportation
For HB 2991

Compiled on: Wednesday, April 26, 2023 8:57 PM

Note: Comments received by the committee reflect only the view of the individual(s) submitting the comment, who retain sole responsibility for the content of the comment. Neither the committee nor the Texas House of Representatives takes a position on the views expressed in any comment. The committee compiles the comments received for informational purposes only and does not exercise any editorial control over comments.

Hearing Date: April 26, 2023 10:30 AM - or upon final adjourn./recess or bill referral if permission granted

Mary Anderson
Self-employed
Austin, TX

My family, friends and I are opposed to HB2991 by Harrison. Because It's very difficult for just ordinary citizens to pay these toll fees along w/ rising gas prices and inflation on our food products, to add a policy that authorizes an administrative fee and imposes civil penalties, is an unjust burden on our citizens and our children of future generations.

Sarah Medford
self
Jarrell, TX

I support this bill, which will greatly improve the toll billing system in Texas. My family and I have experienced confusing over-billing, and this bill will go far to prevent this in the future.

T. H. Anderson, Doctor
Self-employed - licensed psychologist
Austin, TX

I support and advocate that the Legislature needs to pass HB 2991--this toll collection reform that:

- a) de-criminalizes drivers for unpaid tolls
- b) ends the ability of agencies to impound vehicles and block vehicle registrations (counterproductive to getting the tolls paid); and
- c) caps the astronomical fines/fees that can be imposed for unpaid tolls (our bill caps administrative fees/fines at \$48/year, \$50/year in civil penalties), and
- d) immediately notifies drivers if there's a problem with their payment card to avoid unnecessary fines and fees.

As the bill stands today, it seems it would be very good for all the citizens in the State of Texas.

Thank you for your support of this important House Bill 2991, Dr. T. H. Anderson

Mary Anderson, Mrs.
Self-employed Office Manager
Austin, TX

PLEASE EXCUSE MY 1ST SUBMITTED COMMENT BECAUSE I WAS CONFUSED.
PLEASE ACCEPT THIS COMMENT IN ITS PLACE:

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As the bill stands today, it seems it would be very good for all the citizens in the State of Texas.

Thank you for your support of this important House Bill 2991, Mary Anderson

George Eliot
Self-employed - retired
Austin, TX

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- d) immediately notifies drivers if there's a problem with their payment card to avoid unnecessary fines and fees.

Please pass this bill. As the bill stands today, it seems it would be very good for all the citizens in the State of Texas.

Thank you for your support of this important House Bill 2991,

George Eliot

Tommy Anderson
Self-employed - retired
Austin, TX

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As the bill stands today, it seems it would be very good for all the citizens in the State of Texas.

Thank you for your support of this important House Bill 2991,
Tommy Anderson

Kim Roland
Self / Retired
Lockhart, TX

I fully SUPPORT HB 2991.

Karen Early
Self
San Antonio, TX

I support this fair bill to protect Texan drivers

Julie Campbell
self
Waxahachie, TX

The toll authority needs a COMPLETE overhaul!! Their fee structure is extortion and are higher than ANY credit card amounts I've seen. I support this bill but it is my believe that the NTTA intentionally refrains from sending first bills out so they can collect their atrocious fees on the second bill. The admin fees are ridiculous!!! Texas should take over these roads and completely cut out the NTTA. There also needs to be a system for signage so there is less confusion when entering a toll road, leaving drivers no choice but to enter the road and be given a fine all because of poor signage! ABSOLUTELY cap the fee amounts! There should be NO civil penalty for any of this. I support intent of this bill but it needs to go deeper and expand into the NTTA's practices!!!

Janice Millikan
self
Tyler, TX

Please support HB 2991 relating to toll collections.

Toll roads and their controlling authorities are out of control in Texas. Under current law, a 75 cent toll charge can incur astronomical fees and even turn into a criminal offense or lead to impounding of your vehicle if the billing entity decides you are late paying your toll. These unrestricted fees and offenses are currently allowed to multiply indefinitely when in fact a bill may have never sent or might have been sent to an incorrect person. Please support HB 2991 in an attempt to correct these unchecked and inappropriate toll road practices. Thank you.

Edward Kandler
self retired
Jarrell, TX

I, Edward Kandler, approve of HB 2991 that relates to toll collection & enforcing. It seems fair.

Carrie Baker, Mrs
Self
Lubbock, TX

Please vote yes on this bill!

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Don Mobbs

Self

Tyler, TX

Please Support HB 2991, TXDot is imposing USURY in these toll fines and fees. I personally know of a young couple that received hundreds of dollars of fines and fees that they could not pay all at once. There can be issues with receiving bills and sometimes you don't even realize you are on a toll road. There must be a cap for these fines and people should not have their licenses revoked for toll fees and fines. Please support meaningful reform for toll fees and fines. Thank You.

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Janie Brittain
Self - Retired Systems Engineer
Garland, TX

Vote YES on HB2991 to cap toll fees/penalties and eliminate criminal penalties for failure to pay tolls. Stop making drivers criminals over unpaid tolls.

Maria Hammerlein
Myself
Kerrville, TX

I am requesting a NO Vote on HB2991. The contract for a road that had all debt cancelled through bankruptcy should not be extended for 20 years to a foreign entity! There are so many problems with this as I have just stated but in addition, billing is a colossal failure. See article at the link. <https://www.texastribune.org/2015/01/29/txdot-toll-billing-problems-being-addressed/>.

Thank you!

Robert Raborn
Self-retired
Alleyton, TX

From Sep 2018 to Jan 2023 I have received seven (7) bills from TxTag. Each of these bills was for my vehicle and each time I had to call and convince the clerk that I was not on that road at that time. I am 84 and drive very little out of Colorado County and never on toll roads. Yes, I have been caught in the wrong lane and did go through a toll station; but I paid that bill on time. This bill is a great first step; please go on to terminating Toll Roads in Texas. Toll Roads are not TEXAS. Thanks for all you do and have to put up with in Austin. I remain Robert Raborn

Ruth York, (1) VP; (2) Interim Chair
(1) Tea Party Patriots of Eastland County; (2) Texas Family Defense Committee; (3) self (Direct sales)
Cisco, TX

We SUPPORT HB 2991.

I have experienced erroneous toll charges and problems with payment cards myself. Other Texans have simply failed to receive a bill in the first place. The fines and fees tacked onto toll bills amount to usury. The state has also been criminalizing Texas drivers over unpaid toll bills that trap drivers with un-payable debt from mounting surcharges that could revoke one's drivers licenses and prevent Texans from driving legally. Millions of Texas drivers are experiencing a similar fate when they get a toll bill with hundreds, if not thousands of dollars of fines or fees tacked onto their bills.

Hardworking Texans need the relief provided by this bill. It de-criminalizes drivers for unpaid tolls; ends the ability of agencies to impound vehicles and block vehicle registrations (counterproductive to getting the tolls paid); caps the astronomical fines/fees that can be imposed for unpaid tolls (our bill caps administrative fees/fines at \$48/year, \$50/year in civil penalties), and immediately notifies drivers if there's a problem with their payment card to avoid unnecessary fines and fees.

Please vote YES on HB 2991.