By:  Curry, et al. (Senate Sponsor - Miles) H.B. No. 3611

(In the Senate - Received from the House April 30, 2025; May 5, 2025, read first time and referred to Committee on Transportation; May 14, 2025, reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 9, Nays 0; May 14, 2025, sent to printer.)

COMMITTEE VOTE

                       Yea Nay Absent  PNV

Nichols                 X

West                    X

Bettencourt             X

Hagenbuch               X

Hinojosa of Hidalgo     X

Johnson                 X

King                    X

Miles                   X

Perry                   X

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the civil penalty for certain signs placed on the right-of-way of a public road.

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

SECTION 1.  Section 393.001, Transportation Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 393.001.  DEFINITIONS [~~DEFINITION~~]. In this chapter:

(1)  "Person" includes a person's employee, agent, independent contractor, assignee, business alter ego, and successor in interest.

(2)  "Sign" [~~, "sign"~~] means an outdoor sign, display, light, device, figure, painting, drawing, message, plaque, poster, or other thing designed, intended, or used to advertise or inform.

SECTION 2.  Section 393.007, Transportation Code, is amended by amending Subsections (a) and (b) and adding Subsection (a-1) to read as follows:

(a)  A person who places or commissions the placement of or whose commercial advertisement is placed on a sign on the right-of-way of a public road that is not otherwise authorized by law may be liable for a civil penalty, provided that, for a person's first violation:

(1)  the applicable political subdivision provides written notice to the person that the person may be liable for a civil penalty if the person fails to remove the sign within a specified period; and

(2)  the person fails to remove the sign within the specified period.

(a-1)  A district or county attorney or a municipal attorney in the jurisdiction in which the placement of a sign on the right-of-way of a public road is alleged to have occurred may sue to collect the penalty.

(b)  The amount of the civil penalty may not exceed:

(1)  [~~is not less than $500 or more than~~] $1,000 for a first [~~each~~] violation;

(2)  $2,500 for a second violation; and

(3)  $5,000 for a third or subsequent violation[~~, depending on the seriousness of the violation and whether the person has previously violated this chapter. A separate penalty may be collected for each day a continuing violation occurs~~].

SECTION 3.  The change in law made by this Act applies only to a violation that occurs on or after the effective date of this Act. A violation that occurs before the effective date of this Act is governed by the law in effect on the date the violation occurred, and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose. For purposes of this section, a violation occurs before the effective date of this Act if any element of the violation occurs before that date.

SECTION 4.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.

\* \* \* \* \*