

Overview of Transportation Code Amendments

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Katie's Law

HB 84

HB 84

DL Renewal

- Upon reaching 85, a person must renew their driver's license every two years.
- Someone over 79 years of age may not renew online or by mail.

**Also applies to commercial driver's licenses*

HB 586

DSC

Amends Art. 45.0511, CCP

- **Driving safety course available**
 - For speeding less than 25 miles an hour over the posted limit; AND
 - For speeding under 95 miles an hour
 - For military spouses and dependents without a Texas driver's license



Compliance Dismissals

HB 1623 Compliance Dismissals

- ✓ Operating a motor vehicle without license plate(s)
- ✓ Display altered, unclean, or obscured license plate/registration insignia
- ✓ Violate Driver's License Restriction or Endorsement
- ✓ Operate Vehicle with Defective Required Equipment (or in unsafe condition)

HB 1623

Cont'd

- ✓ Expired motor vehicle registration
- ✓ Expired Driver's License
- ✓ Failure to Report Change of Address or Name Within 30 Days

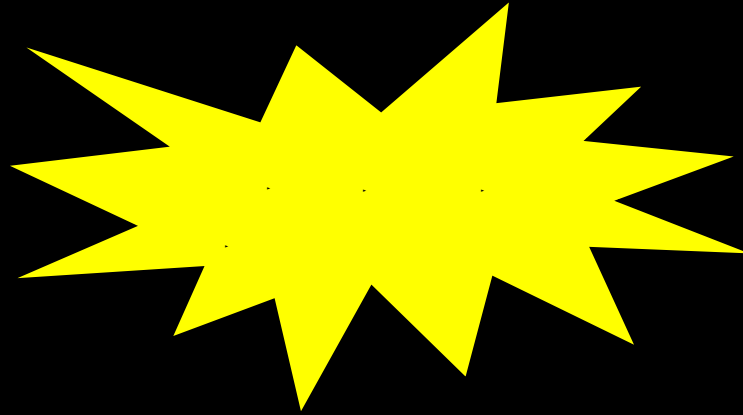
HB 1623

Cont'd

- ✓ Failure to Display Driver's License
- ✓ Expired Inspection Less than 60 days

HB 1623

DWLI

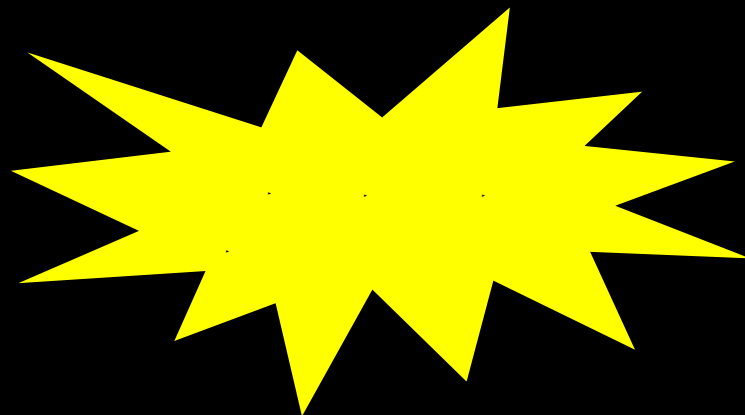


DRIVING WHILE LICENSE INVALID

- Class C misdemeanor
- Class B misdemeanor if the suspension was from a DWI conviction
- Class B misdemeanor if previously convicted of DWLI

Which Means

- The comparable CDL statute, *Driving While Disqualified Prohibited*, found in Section 522.071, T.C., is also a Class C misdemeanor, punishable by up to a \$500 fine.



Lightweight Vehicles

HB 1279

Creates § 544.0075

- Traffic signals must be able to detect light-weight vehicles



HB 3849

Off-highway Vehicles

- Offense to ride an off-highway vehicle on public property without a safety helmet and eye protection



Child Safety

HB 323 | HB 3190

- Three point seat-belts required in new buses
- Seat belt law is expanded to include “the operator of a school bus equipped with a safety belt for the operator’s seat”





SB 153

Amends §521.222, TC

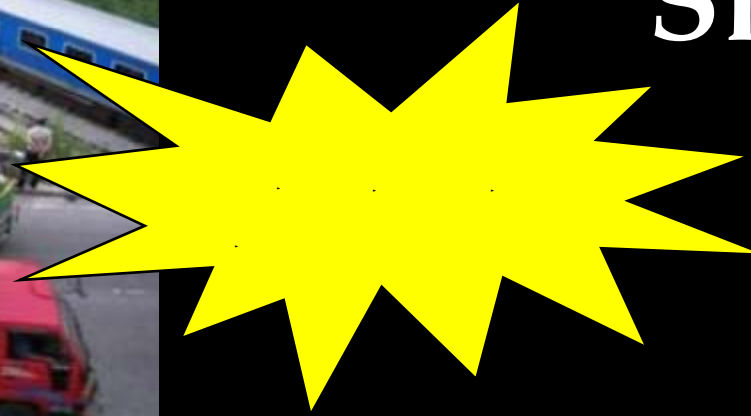
A person seated next to someone driving with an instructional permit may not:

- Sleep
 - Be intoxicated
 - Engage in activity preventing them from observing and responding to the driver
- *Unless there was another person in the seat next to the driver who was qualified and capable to be the accompanying passenger*

TOWING



SB 500



- Sheriff's office in unincorporated areas is to maintain a public list of towing companies to perform non-consent tows
- If a tow truck arrives at a scene without having been contacted by the sheriff, it is a Class C misdemeanor

Commercial Motor Vehicles

Some Things Did NOT Change:

- 1.No DSC or Deferred Disposition for CDL Holders
2. There is Still no Pre-Trial Diversion for Chapter 45 Courts
3. The Loop Hole in Article 42.12 is Still Available in County Court for CDL Holders

HB 1638 | SB 545 | HB 2077

Amends § 644.101(b), TC

- Police officers may apply for certification to enforce CMV safety standards:
 - in a municipality less than 5,000 adjacent to a bay connected to the Gulf of Mexico and in a county adjacent to Harris County; or
 - in a municipality more than 50,000
 - in a municipality 25,000-50,000 located within a county population of at least 500,000; or
 - in a municipality in any county bordering Mexico
 - in a municipality in Harris County
 - in Texarkana



SB 329

Amends § 547.613, TC

A commercial motor vehicle is bound by federal window tinting requirements



MORE NEW OFFENSES

SB 387

- Expands the requirement to cover a load to refuse as well as loose material being transported on a public highway
- Material not transported by a commercial vehicle doesn't need a cover if it is completely enclosed by the load-carrying compartment or does not blow from or spill over the top of the compartment



HB 1798

Creates § 451.113, TC

- Offense to use or block a designated right of way of a metropolitan transit authority in connection with a bus rapid transit system

** Exempt: vehicles owned or controlled by the authority, emergency vehicles responding to a call, and persons authorized to drive on the right of way*



SB 1372

- New offense for operator driving on or crossing a railroad grade without sufficient undercarriage clearance
- \$50-\$200



HB 3832

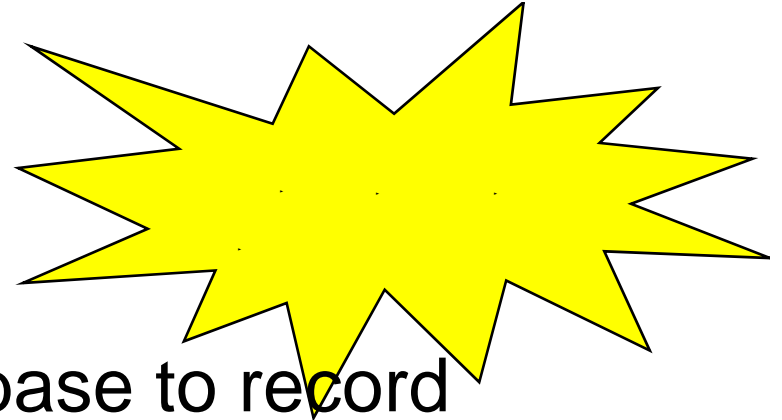
Amends § 547.611(a), TC

A vehicle may have video equipment only when:

- the video display is not visible from the operator's seat; or
- the display is only visible when the vehicle is in park or the parking brake is engaged.



SB 1786 | SB 11



- TxDOT must develop a database to record temporary dealer tag information
- Temporary dealer tag numbers must be unique and accessible to law enforcement
- Dealers are required to issue a person who buys any vehicle a temporary tag
- Dealer may apply for an extended tag after 20 days have expired
- It is an offense for someone other than a dealer or converter to purchase a temporary tag

HB 3089 Charitable Contributions

Amends § 552.0071, TC

Definition of “roadway” is expanded to include the roadbed, shoulder, median, curb, safety zone, sidewalk, and utility easements near or adjacent to the roadway

