

**New Legislation Affecting the Texas Transportation Code
88th Legislative Session – 2023**

This document is intended to educate law enforcement officers on changes affecting enforcement from a roadside or crash investigation standpoint. Some administrative changes in the Transportation Code during the 88th Legislative session are not described in this document because they do not impact law enforcement activities.

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Bill: [HB 64](#)

Effective Date: September 1, 2023

Brief: Relating to peace officers authorized to operate an authorized emergency vehicle to conduct a police escort.

Summary: This bill amends Transportation Code [§546.002\(a\)](#) to expand the list of peace officers authorized to conduct a police escort. Officers commissioned by the board of directors of the Ector County Hospital District may conduct police escorts as defined in [§546.002\(a\)](#).

Bill: [HB 198](#)

Effective Date: September 1, 2023

Brief: Relating to vehicle safety inspections of certain travel trailers.

Summary: This bill adds Transportation Code [§548.054](#) to allow the owners of travel trailers subject to state vehicle inspection requirements to self-inspect the travel trailer and submit an affidavit to the Department of Motor Vehicles stating the vehicle is in proper and safe condition. This process is in lieu of a state inspection at an inspection station and will allow the travel trailer to be registered. A fee of \$7.50 will be imposed at the time of registration to recoup the fee normally paid at an inspection station. **NOTE:** HB 3297 repeals most vehicle inspection requirements in TRC Chapter 548 Effective January 1, 2025. For additional information, visit [HB 3297](#).

Bill: [HB 291](#)

Effective Date: September 1, 2023

Brief: Relating to occupational driver's licenses and to the renewal of driver's licenses.

Summary: This bill amends Transportation Code [Chapter 521, Subchapter L](#) to make changes to the process of obtaining an occupational driver's license in Texas. Additional eligibility qualifiers were added in [§521.242](#).

Transportation Code [§521.2424](#) was added to clarify a commercial motor vehicle cannot be operated with an occupational license. Additional procedural changes were made throughout Subchapter L that will not affect roadside enforcement measures.

Bill: [HB 718](#)

Effective Date: July 1, 2025

Brief: Relating to the issuance of certain tags, permits, and license plates authorizing the movement of vehicles and the transfer and renewal of certain license plates.

Summary: This bill amends numerous sections of the Transportation Code in Chapters 502, 503, and 504 to end the use of the following paper temporary tags and permits: One-Trip Permits, 30-Day Permits, Dealer Temporary Tags, and Buyer's Temporary Tags. Each of these paper tags or permits will be replaced by a metal license plate or plates. Upon the sale of a vehicle at a dealership, the dealer will be responsible for issuing and affixing a dealer-issued license plate or plates to the vehicle.

Texas DMV is tasked with the development of rules to administer these changes, including the management of the number of dealer-issued license plates a dealer may obtain. [§503.0671](#) is added to create an offense for the unauthorized use or distribution of a dealer-issued license plate. Additional training materials will be published once DMV develops the rules required to implement this legislation.

Bill: [HB 898](#)

Effective Date: September 1, 2023

Brief: Relating to the offense of passing certain vehicles on a highway; increasing a criminal penalty.

Summary: This bill amends Transportation Code [§545.157](#) to increase the penalties for a violation of the “Slow Down/Move Over” law. The first offense will carry a fine of \$500 to \$1,250. A second or subsequent offense within five years will carry a fine of \$1,000 to \$2,000. The offense is a Class A Misdemeanor if the violation results in bodily injury to another and a State Jail Felony for a second or subsequent conviction for an offense that causes bodily injury to another.

A second or subsequent conviction for a Slow Down/Move Over offense allows a court to order the suspension of the person’s license for a period not to exceed six months.

Bill: [HB 914](#)

Effective Date: September 1, 2023

Brief: Relating to temporary vehicle tags and the offense of tampering with a governmental record.

Summary: This bill amends Penal Code [§37.01\(2\)](#) to add “a temporary tag issued under Chapter 502 or 503, Transportation Code” to the definition of “Governmental Record”. This includes 72-Hour and 144-Hour permits, One-Trip and 30-Day Permits, Dealer Temporary tags, and Buyer Temporary Tags. This addition clarifies a path to enforcement for Tampering with a Governmental Record under Penal Code [§37.10](#) when fraudulent or unlawfully obtained temporary tags are encountered. The offense is a Class A Misdemeanor.

This legislation also amends Texas Code of Criminal Procedure [§14.06\(d\)](#) to add the offense of Tampering With a Governmental Record (Temporary Tag) to the list of misdemeanor offenses for which a person may be cited and released if they reside in the county where the offense occurred. Although a person is cited and released under this section, the offense remains a Class A Misdemeanor and should be filed in the appropriate court.

Bill: [HB 1277](#)

Effective Date: September 1, 2023

Brief: Relating to pedestrian use of a sidewalk.

Summary: This bill amends Transportation Code [§552.006\(b\)](#) to clarify required pedestrian positioning when walking along and on a highway. If a sidewalk is provided, pedestrians walking along a highway are required to utilize the sidewalk. If a sidewalk is not provided, a pedestrian walking along and on a highway is required to walk on the left side of the roadway or shoulder facing oncoming traffic. This legislation adds the exception “unless the left side of the roadway or the shoulder of the highway facing oncoming traffic is obstructed or unsafe.” Pedestrians walking in areas where the left side of the roadway or shoulder is obstructed or unsafe are not required to walk in a specific position.

Bill: [HB 1633](#)

Effective Date: September 1, 2023

Brief: Relating to certain offenses regarding parking privileges of veterans with disabilities.

Summary: The 87th legislative session (2021) modified disabled parking privileges as they relate to vehicles displaying Disabled Veteran License plates so that these vehicles can only utilize disabled parking spaces if they display an international symbol of access on the license plate or a rear-view mirror placard. Lack of awareness of this change and a lengthy process for receiving the required plates has led to significant numbers of disabled

veterans receiving citations for utilizing disabled parking spaces without displaying an international symbol of access.

HB 1633 amends Transportation Code [§681.011](#) to create an offense specifically for vehicles bearing Disabled Veteran license plates utilizing disabled parking spaces without an international symbol of access displayed. There are enhanced fines for subsequent convictions. The fine structure for this offense provides for a lower fine than normal disabled parking violations. The first offense is punishable by a fine of \$25 to \$200.

This legislation also provides for the dismissal of a first offense under this new subsection if the violator obtains a Disabled Veteran license plate bearing the international symbol of access within six months of the date of the offense.

Bill: [HB 1885](#)

Effective Date: Immediately

Brief: Relating to the authority of the Texas Transportation Commission to establish variable speed limits.

Summary: This bill amends Transportation Code [§545.353](#) to allow the Texas Transportation Commission to establish a variable speed limit program to temporarily lower the speed limit due to inclement weather, congestion, road construction, or any other condition affecting traffic safety. The lower speed limit must be based on an engineering and traffic investigation and may be displayed on a stationary or portable changeable message sign. Notice of the change in speed limit must be posted on a sign between 500 and 1,000 feet of the location the lower speed limit begins.

Bill: [HB 2190](#)

Effective Date: September 1, 2023

Brief: Relating to the terminology used to describe transportation-related accidents.

Summary: This bill amends numerous sections in the Transportation Code and other state law to update language used to describe transportation-related accidents. The word “accident” was replaced with the word “collision” throughout numerous texts.

Bill: [HB 2195](#)

Effective Date: September 1, 2023

Brief: Relating to wrong, fictitious, altered, or obscured license plates; increasing a criminal penalty.

Summary: This bill amends Transportation Code [§504.945](#) regarding an obscured license plate. It adds the word “cover” to the list of prohibited actions in (a)(7)(C) to make it a violation to “alter, cover, or obscure the letters or numbers of the license plate number or the color of the plate”. Even clear license plate covers will be prohibited by this change, as they cover license plates and frequently interfere with the plate’s detectability for license plate readers and toll/traffic cameras. This legislation also builds a unique fine structure for this violation – the first offense has a maximum fine of \$300, the second offense has a maximum fine of \$600, and the third or subsequent offense is a Class B Misdemeanor.

This legislation also amends Transportation Code [§548.051](#) to add an unobscured license plate to the list of inspection items for the purposes of the state safety inspection. **NOTE:** HB 3297 repeals most vehicle inspection requirements in TRC Chapter 548 Effective January 1, 2025, to include the section amended by this legislation. For additional information, visit the [HB 3297](#) section of this document.

Bill: [HB 2616](#)

Effective Date: September 1, 2023

Brief: Relating to the operation of and lighting equipment for medical examiner vehicles and vehicles operated by justices of the peace in certain circumstances.

Summary: This bill adds Transportation Code [§547.751](#) and [§547.752](#) to allow medical examiner vehicles and vehicles operated by a Justice of the Peace to be equipped with flashing or alternating red or red and blue emergency lights to facilitate their response in certain circumstances. These emergency lamps may only be used when operating the vehicle in response to an inquest.

[§545.156](#) is amended to require traffic to yield the right-of-way to an approaching medical examiner vehicle or Justice of the Peace utilizing red or red and blue emergency lights as if the vehicle were an emergency vehicle. This legislation does not define medical examiner vehicles or Justice of the Peace vehicles as authorized emergency vehicles and does not permit them to engage in the conduct described in [546.001](#) (Permissible Conduct for Authorized Emergency Vehicles).

Bill: [HB 2899](#)

Effective Date: Immediately

Brief: Relating to the impoundment of a vehicle used in the commission of the offense of racing on a highway or in the commission of certain criminal conduct involving a reckless driving exhibition.

Summary: This bill amends Transportation Code [§545.420](#) to require peace officers to impound vehicles used in the commission of a racing offense under [§545.420](#) or the offense of Engaging in a Reckless Driving Exhibition under Penal Code [§42.03\(d\)](#) or [\(e\)](#). Prior to this change, impoundment was only required when the racing offense resulted in an accident with property damage or personal injury.

Bill: [HB 3014](#)

Effective Date: September 1, 2023

Brief: Relating to the motor vehicle safety inspection of electric vehicles.

Summary: This bill amends Transportation Code [§548.051](#) to exempt electric vehicles that do not have an internal combustion engine from the emission and exhaust system inspection requirements during a state safety inspection. **NOTE:** HB 3297 repeals most vehicle inspection requirements in TRC Chapter 548 Effective January 1, 2025, to include the section amended by this legislation. For additional information, visit the [HB 3297](#) section of this document.

Bill: [HB 3125](#)

Effective Date: September 1, 2023

Brief: Relating to the use of certain lighting equipment on authorized emergency vehicles.

Summary: Many authorized emergency vehicles utilize flashing white lights as part of their emergency lighting systems, however the Transportation Code never explicitly authorized flashing white lights for emergency vehicles. This bill amends Transportation Code [§547.702](#) to add flashing or alternating white lights to the description of signal lamps that may be displayed by authorized emergency vehicles.

Bill: [HB 3126](#)

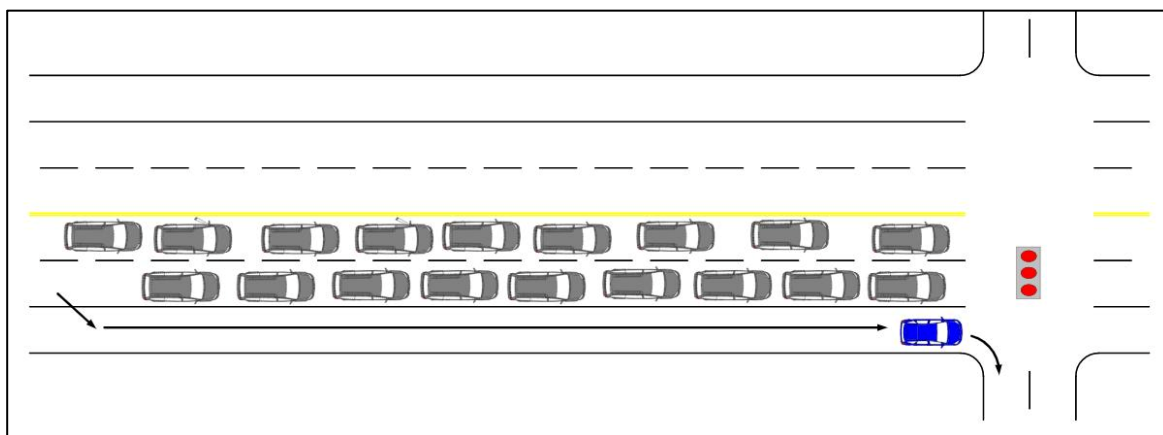
Effective Date: September 1, 2023

Brief: Relating to the definitions of "pass" and "passing" used in reference to a vehicle.

Summary: This bill amends Transportation Code [§545.001](#) to clarify the definition of “pass” or “passing” by adding “return to the original lane of travel”. To meet the definition of “pass” or “passing”, a driver must return or intend to return to the original lane of travel. This creates a difference between “passing” and “driving past”. The Transportation Code prohibits passing in certain circumstances and it permits passing in certain circumstances. This change ensures these laws are not misapplied to vehicles that are simply driving past other traffic without the intent to return to the original lane.

Enforcement Example:

During traffic congestion, vehicles sometimes move to the improved shoulder and travel for an extended period of time to get past traffic and eventually make a right turn as depicted in the diagram below:



TRC [545.058\(a\)\(4\)](#) permits driving on the improved shoulder to “pass another vehicle that is slowing or stopped on the main traveled portion of the highway”. Drivers argue that the driving behavior depicted above is permitted because they are passing vehicles that are slowing or stopped in the roadway as permitted by 545.058. Under the revised definition of “pass”, however, the blue vehicle is not “passing” because there is no intent to return to the original lane of travel. If the blue vehicle is not “passing” by definition, this action is not permitted by 545.058 and the driver is committing the violation of “Drove on Improved Shoulder When Prohibited”.

Note: vehicles are permitted to drive on the improved shoulder to “decelerate before turning right” in 545.058, however in the scenario above the blue vehicle moves to the improve shoulder much further from the intersection than is necessary to decelerate before turning.

Bill: [HB 3132](#)

Effective Date: September 1, 2023

Brief: Relating to an optional designation on a driver's license or personal identification certificate indicating that a person is deaf or hard of hearing.

Summary: This bill adds Transportation Code [§521.1251](#) to allow for an optional designation on a driver’s license or identification certificate stating that the holder of the license or ID card is deaf or hard of hearing. Law Enforcement personnel encountering these individuals can sometimes mistakenly believe the individual is being unresponsive or uncooperative. This designation on the license seeks to quickly indicate the person’s disability to peace officers to avoid misunderstandings that could lead to unnecessary escalation.

Bill: [HB 3224](#)

Effective Date: September 1, 2023

Brief: Relating to the status of the registration of a vehicle after a failure to establish financial responsibility.

Summary: Prior to this change, a person convicted for failure to maintain financial responsibility with a previous conviction would have their driver's license and vehicle registrations suspended if they did not file evidence of financial responsibility with the Department of Public Safety (SR-22). This bill amends Transportation Code [§601.231](#) so that suspension of vehicle registration is no longer authorized by this section. A person can still have their driver's license suspended for failing to file proof of financial responsibility with DPS when required.

Bill: [HB 3297](#)

Effective Date: January 1, 2025

Brief: Relating to the elimination of regular mandatory vehicle safety inspections for noncommercial vehicles and the imposition of replacement fees.

Summary: This bill repeals most aspects of the non-commercial vehicle safety inspection program. Most non-commercial vehicles will not have to undergo a safety inspection prior to registration. The commercial motor vehicle inspection program is unaffected. Vehicles registered in counties subject to emissions inspection under the state's air quality state implementation plan will still have to undergo an emissions inspection within 90 days prior to registration application or renewal. There are seventeen counties in Texas that required emissions testing: Brazoria, Collin, Dallas, Denton, Ellis, El Paso, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Johnson, Kaufman, Montgomery, Parker, Rockwall, Tarrant, Travis, and Williamson. [Bexar county may be added to this list soon.](#)

For vehicle owners who are no longer subject to state inspection, a \$7.50 inspection program replacement fee will be assessed annually at the time of registration renewal. Transportation Code [§548.511](#) is added to grant an exception to the payment of this fee for numerous vehicles.

Bill: [HB 3313](#)

Effective Date: September 1, 2023

Brief: Relating to the use of certain lighting equipment on motorcycles and mopeds.

Summary: This bill amends Transportation Code [§547.306](#) to clear up ambiguity in the wording of this section. LED ground effect lighting on motorcycles or mopeds may only be non-flashing amber or white light. No other colors are permitted. This section is specific to ground effect lighting on motorcycles and mopeds. Ground effect lighting on other types of motor vehicles is not specifically regulated by the Transportation Code.

Bill: [HB 3558](#)

Effective Date: September 1, 2023

Brief: Relating to the operation of a motor vehicle at an intersection with a stop sign.

Summary: This bill amends Transportation Code [§544.010](#) to reorder the three places a vehicle may be required to stop in compliance with a stop sign so the locations appear in the order a driver would encounter them at a normally marked intersection. If a clearly marked stop line is present, the stop must be made at the clearly marked stop line. If a clearly marked stop line is not present, the stop must be made before entering the crosswalk on the near side of the intersection. If neither a stop line nor crosswalk are present, a vehicle must stop at the place nearest the intersection where the operator has a view of approaching traffic. A common misconception is that a vehicle must stop even with the stop sign itself – this is not a requirement, nor was it a requirement prior to this legislative change.

Bill: [HB 3645](#)

Effective Date: September 1, 2023

Brief: Relating to requirements for the issuance of certain driver's licenses and commercial driver's licenses.

Summary: This bill amends Transportation Code [§521.148](#), [§521.1601](#), and [§522.034](#) to modify the requirements when an out-of-state license holder becomes a Texas resident and seeks a Texas driver's license or commercial driver's license.

If the out-of-state license includes authorization to operate a motorcycle, the license holder may obtain a Texas class M driver's license without completing a motorcycle operator training course.

If an out-of-state license holder is younger than 25 years of age, they may obtain a Texas driver's license without completing a driver's education program.

Note: The changes in this bill regarding out of state license holders are mirrored in [SB 478](#). Additionally, [SB 478](#) made significant changes to the Motorcycle Operator Training and Safety Program described in Transportation Code [Chapter 662](#). These changes are intended to increase the number of Motorcycle Safety Course providers in Texas.

Bill: [HB 3646](#)

Effective Date: September 1, 2023

Brief: Relating to certain regulations regarding commercial driver's licenses.

Summary: This bill amends Transportation Code [§522.003](#) to unify state commercial driver's license law with federal regulations regarding the definition of a "commercial motor vehicle". For commercial licensing purposes in Transportation Code Chapter 522, a "commercial motor vehicle" will be defined in [49 C.F.R. Section 383.5](#). The types and weights of vehicles described in the newly adopted definition are the same as the old definition replaced by this change. The primary difference is the adopted federal definition of "commercial motor vehicle" stipulates that the vehicle is used in commerce. Large vehicles that are not in commerce will no longer be defined as commercial motor vehicles for the purposes of commercial driver's license law. Operators of larger vehicles not in commerce are still required to have the correct class of non-commercial driver's license, as described in Transportation Code [521.081](#) – [521.084](#).

Bill: [HB 4122](#)

Effective Date: September 1, 2023

Brief: Relating to the operation and movement of motorcycles on a roadway laned for traffic.

Summary: This bill adds Transportation Code [§545.0605](#) to address motorcycle lane use. Motorcycles are entitled to full use of a lane and may not be deprived of the full use of a lane by another motor vehicle. Motorcycles are permitted to ride two abreast but may not ride more than two abreast in a single lane.

This bill also specifically prohibits the practice commonly called "lane splitting" where a motorcycle rides between lanes of traffic moving in the same direction or otherwise passes a motor vehicle while in the same lane as the vehicle being passed. Although enforcement for these actions has commonly been taken under other sections of the Transportation Code, this new section will be much more specific to lane splitting activities and presents a clearer path to prosecution.

Bill: [HB 4337](#)

Effective Date: September 1, 2023

Brief: Relating to licenses and similar documents issued by certain foreign governments.

Summary: This bill amends Transportation Code [§522.015](#) regarding the operation of a commercial motor vehicle by a person who holds a commercial driver's license issued in a foreign country. The standards for license reciprocity were not changed, however a person must be authorized under federal law to work in the United States in order to be covered by this reciprocity. If an out-of-country CDL holder is not authorized to work in the United States under federal law, they may only operate a commercial motor vehicle in a county that borders Mexico.

This bill also amends the definition of a "governmental record" in Penal Code [§37.01\(2\)](#) to include a license, certificate, permit, seal, title, letter of patent, or similar document issued by a foreign government engaged in reciprocal treaty or memorandum of understanding with the United States. This addition clarifies a path to enforcement for Tampering with a Governmental Record under Penal Code [§37.10](#) when fraudulent or unlawfully obtained foreign driver's licenses or other certificates and encountered by law enforcement.

Bill: [HB 4528](#)

Effective Date: September 1, 2023

Brief: Relating to the requirement that a peace officer take possession of a person's driver's license following the person's failure to pass or refusal to consent to a test for intoxication.

Summary: This bill amends Transportation Code [Chapter 524](#) and [Chapter 724](#) to eliminate the requirement that a peace officer take a person's driver's license into custody upon the refusal or failure of a blood or breath test for intoxication. Peace officers are also no longer required to issue a temporary driving permit. The DIC-25 form serves as a notice of suspension and a temporary driving permit, therefore this change will likely result in a new DIC-25 to eliminate the temporary driving permit portion of the form.

Persons who refuse to provide a breath or blood specimen or who provide a specimen over the limit should retain possession of their driver's license. DPS will apply suspensions electronically at the appropriate time.

Bill: [SB 505](#)

Effective Date: September 1, 2023

Brief: Relating to imposing an additional fee for the registration of an electric vehicle.

Summary: This bill adds Transportation Code [§502.360](#) authorizing an additional fee for the registration of electric vehicles. The fee will be \$400 for an initial 2-year registration of a new vehicle and \$200 for registration or renewal of a one-year registration. The purpose of this fee is to recoup lost revenue for the gasoline/diesel fuel tax fund. Numerous transportation improvement projects are funded through the gasoline/diesel fuel tax. The owners of electric vehicles utilize public roadways, however they do not pay into the gasoline/diesel fuel tax fund because they do not purchase gasoline or diesel. This fee ensures electric vehicle operators contribute to the funding of transportation improvement projects for the roadways they utilize.

Bill: [SB 656](#)

Effective Date: September 1, 2023

Brief: Relating to an optional health condition or disability designation on a driver's license or personal identification certificate.

Summary: This bill adds Transportation Code [§521.1251](#) to allow for an optional designation on a driver's license or ID card stating the holder of the license or card has a health condition or disability that may impede effective communication with a peace officer. Law Enforcement personnel encountering these individuals can sometimes mistakenly believe the individual is being unresponsive or uncooperative. This designation on the license seeks to quickly indicate the person's condition or disability to peace officers to avoid misunderstandings that could lead to unnecessary escalation.

Bill: [SB 904](#)

Effective Date: September 1, 2023

Brief: Relating to the offense of the unauthorized use of parking designated for persons with disabilities.

Summary: This bill amends Transportation Code [§681.011](#) to address situations where a disabled parking space is marked, however the markings are not to the exact specifications described in [681.009](#). New requirements for disabled parking space markings were implemented by HB 3163 in the 86th Legislative Session (2019), however many parking spaces were marked prior to the implementation of these requirements and are therefore out of compliance. This legislation states it is not a defense to prosecution for a disabled parking violation when the parking space is not marked to the exact specifications described in [681.009](#) as long as the space is clearly distinguishable as being designated for persons with disabilities.

This bill also amends Transportation Code [§681.011](#) to state that a peace officer may issue a warning only for a disabled parking violation if the parking space does not have a sign identifying the space in accordance with the requirements in [681.009](#). Disabled parking spaces marked only with paint on the ground should not result in a citation against a violator.

Bill: [SB 1115](#)

Effective Date: September 1, 2023

Brief: Relating to the titling, registration, and operation of an autocycle.

Summary: This bill amends the definition of "autocycle" in Transportation Code [§501.008](#) and [§502.005](#). Prior to this change, an autocycle had to be equipped with a steering "wheel" by definition, however this legislation changed the term to a steering "mechanism". Some manufacturers now equip autocycles with a steering bar rather than a steering wheel. This change allows such vehicles to be defined and registered as autocycles. An example of an autocycle with handlebars rather than a steering wheel is the Acrimoto autocycle (pictured below):



Source: acrimoto.com

This legislation also requires that autocycles be equipped with seat belts and exempts autocycles with a partially or fully enclosed cab from state helmet requirements in Transportation Code [§661.0015](#).

Although autocycles are equipped with seatbelts by definition, seatbelt and child safety seat use are not required because autocycles do not meet the definition of a “passenger vehicle” utilized in TRC [545.412](#) and [545.413](#).

Bill: [SB 1364](#)

Effective Date: September 1, 2023

Brief: Relating to weight limitations for certain natural gas or electric vehicles.

Summary: This bill amends a weight exception described in Transportation Code [§621.101\(b-1\)](#). A vehicle powered primarily by natural gas or electric battery power may exceed the gross weight limitations imposed by [§621.101](#) by up to 2,000 pounds so long as the gross weight of the vehicle does not exceed 82,000 pounds.

Bill: [SB 1413](#)

Effective Date: Immediately

Brief: Relating to the authority of a fire department to remove certain personal property from a roadway or right-of-way.

Summary: This bill amends Transportation Code [§545.3051](#) to add a fire department to the entities authorized to remove personal property from a roadway or a highway right-of-way if the property blocks the roadway or endangers public safety. “Personal property” is defined in this section to mean a variety of items, including a crashed or abandoned vehicle as described in [545.305](#). The intent of this legislation is to allow a fire department to quickly clear the roadway of hazards without having to wait for law enforcement response.

To qualify for this authority, the fire department must meet the definition given in Government Code [419.021](#), meaning it must be staffed by full-time employees of the local government. Volunteer Fire Departments would not meet this definition. The governing body of the fire department’s political subdivision is required to develop and implement a policy for consultation with law enforcement regarding removal of property under this section.

Bill: [SB 1551](#)

Effective Date: September 1, 2023

Brief: Relating to the prosecution of the criminal offense of failure to identify; creating a criminal offense.

Summary: This bill amends Penal Code [§38.02](#) to create a new Failure to Identify offense. It is a Class C Misdemeanor if a person is the operator of a motor vehicle detained by a peace officer for an alleged violation of the law and fails to display a driver’s license and refuses to give the persons name, driver’s license number, residence address, or date of birth. If the driver gives a false or fictitious name, the offense is a Class B Misdemeanor.

Prior to this change, the refusal to provide identifying information was not an offense of Penal Code [§38.02](#) unless a person had actually been placed under arrest by the peace officer prior to the refusal. This bill provides for an offense even if the driver is simply detained on a traffic stop.

Note: A driver who refuses to present a driver’s license on a traffic stop could also be charged with Fail to Display Driver License under TRC [§521.025](#). This offense is also a Class C Misdemeanor.

Bill: [SB 2102](#)

Effective Date: September 1, 2023

Brief: Relating to the initial registration and inspection period for certain rental vehicles; authorizing fees.

Summary: This bill makes changes to several areas of the Transportation Code to allow for a three-year initial inspection and registration period for a new vehicle purchased by a commercial fleet buyer for use as a rental vehicle.

New Specialty License Plates

Bills: [HB 108](#), [HB 282](#), [HB 627](#), [HB 628](#), [HB 1315](#), [HB 2323](#), [HB 2503](#), [HB 2754](#), [HB 2876](#), [HB 2921](#), [HB 5135](#), [SB 280](#), [SB 2221](#)

Specialty License Plates were authorized for the following groups/organizations:

- Classroom Teachers and Retired Classroom Teachers
- Homeland Defense Service Medal
- Texas Superior Service Medal
- Lone Star Distinguished Service Medal
- Texas Outstanding Service Medal
- Texas Medal of Merit
- Surviving Spouse of Star of Texas Award Recipient
- Fallen Law Enforcement Officer
- Veterans Exposed to Open Burn Pits
- Texas our Texas State Song
- Humanitarian Service Medal
- Retired Peace Officer
- Industrial Firefighter
- Antarctica Service Medal
- K9S4KIDS
- Operation Freedom's Sentinel
- Sheriffs' Association of Texas