

1-1 By: Paddie, et al. (Senate Sponsor - Paxton) H.B. No. 1711  
 1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House April 24, 2019;  
 1-3 April 25, 2019, read first time and referred to Committee on  
 1-4 Transportation; May 15, 2019, reported adversely, with favorable  
 1-5 Committee Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 6, Nays 1;  
 1-6 May 15, 2019, sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-8				
1-9	X			
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12	X			
1-13			X	
1-14		X		
1-15	X			
1-16			X	
1-17	X			

1-18 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR H.B. No. 1711 By: Hancock

1-19 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
 1-20 AN ACT

1-21 relating to the issuance of digital license plates; authorizing a  
 1-22 fee.

1-23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-24 SECTION 1. Chapter 504, Transportation Code, is amended by  
 1-25 adding Subchapter B-1 to read as follows:

1-26 SUBCHAPTER B-1. DIGITAL LICENSE PLATES

1-27 Sec. 504.151. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

1-28 (1) "Digital license plate" means an electronic  
 1-29 display that is designed to:

1-30 (A) display the information required to be  
 1-31 included on a physical license plate; and

1-32 (B) be placed on the rear of a vehicle in lieu of  
 1-33 a physical license plate issued under this chapter.

1-34 (2) "Digital license plate provider" means a person  
 1-35 engaged in the business of providing digital license plate hardware  
 1-36 and services to vehicle owners, including the sale or lease of and  
 1-37 issuance of digital license plates.

1-38 Sec. 504.152. APPLICABILITY OF OTHER LAW. Except as  
 1-39 otherwise provided by this subchapter or a rule adopted under this  
 1-40 subchapter, a digital license plate issued under this subchapter is  
 1-41 subject to the laws of this state applicable to a physical license  
 1-42 plate.

1-43 Sec. 504.153. RULES. The board shall adopt rules as  
 1-44 necessary to implement and administer this subchapter.

1-45 Sec. 504.154. DIGITAL LICENSE PLATES AUTHORIZED;

1-46 FUNCTIONALITY. (a) The board by rule shall allow a vehicle  
 1-47 described by Subsection (b) to be equipped with a digital license  
 1-48 plate that is placed on the rear of the vehicle in lieu of a physical  
 1-49 license plate issued under this chapter. The rule must require the  
 1-50 owner of a vehicle issued a digital license plate to obtain a  
 1-51 physical license plate to be placed on the front of the vehicle  
 1-52 unless the vehicle is of a class of vehicles that is not required to  
 1-53 display two license plates, as provided by other law.

1-54 (b) A vehicle registered under Chapter 502 may be equipped  
 1-55 with a digital license plate only if the vehicle:

1-56 (1) is part of a commercial fleet, as defined by  
 1-57 Section 502.001;

1-58 (2) is owned or operated by a governmental entity; or

1-59 (3) is not a passenger vehicle.

1-60 (c) The department may contract with digital license plate

2-1 providers for the issuance of digital license plates, including any  
 2-2 services related to the issuance of digital license plates.  
 2-3 (d) Notwithstanding any other law, rules adopted under this  
 2-4 subchapter:  
 2-5 (1) shall authorize the display of the vehicle's  
 2-6 registration insignia on a digital license plate issued for the  
 2-7 vehicle in lieu of attaching the registration insignia to the  
 2-8 inside of the vehicle's windshield as required by Section 502.059;  
 2-9 (2) may establish a fee in an amount necessary to cover  
 2-10 any administrative costs incurred that relate to the issuance of a  
 2-11 digital license plate and exceed the administrative costs incurred  
 2-12 for the issuance of a physical license plate;  
 2-13 (3) shall prohibit a digital license plate provider  
 2-14 from contracting with the department under Subchapter J;  
 2-15 (4) shall authorize the use of a digital license plate  
 2-16 for electronic toll collection or to display a parking permit; and  
 2-17 (5) may establish procedures for displaying on a  
 2-18 digital license plate:  
 2-19 (A) an emergency alert or other public safety  
 2-20 alert issued by a governmental entity, including an alert  
 2-21 authorized under Subchapter L, M, or P, Chapter 411, Government  
 2-22 Code;  
 2-23 (B) vehicle manufacturer safety recall notices;  
 2-24 (C) static logo displays, including unique  
 2-25 displays for fleet vehicles; or  
 2-26 (D) advertising approved by the department.  
 2-27 Sec. 504.155. DIGITAL LICENSE PLATE REQUIREMENTS. (a) The  
 2-28 board by rule shall set the specifications and requirements for  
 2-29 digital license plates, including requirements for the placement of  
 2-30 digital license plates. The design of and information displayed on  
 2-31 a digital license plate must be approved by the department.  
 2-32 (b) A digital license plate issued under this subchapter  
 2-33 must:  
 2-34 (1) meet the specifications and requirements adopted  
 2-35 under Subsection (a);  
 2-36 (2) include the information required to be included on  
 2-37 a physical license plate and legibly display that information at  
 2-38 all times and in all light conditions, provided that the license  
 2-39 plate may display the information in a smaller typeface when the  
 2-40 vehicle is parked;  
 2-41 (3) have wireless connectivity capability; and  
 2-42 (4) provide benefits to law enforcement that meet or  
 2-43 exceed the benefits provided by physical license plates as of the  
 2-44 time of enactment of this subchapter and as determined by the  
 2-45 Department of Public Safety.  
 2-46 (c) The Department of Public Safety may test digital license  
 2-47 plates to ensure that the digital license plates comply with the  
 2-48 requirements of Subsection (b).  
 2-49 Sec. 504.156. DIGITAL LICENSE PLATE PROVIDER POWERS AND  
 2-50 DUTIES. A digital license plate provider with whom the department  
 2-51 contracts under Section 504.154:  
 2-52 (1) shall maintain a database of the digital license  
 2-53 plates issued by the provider in this state;  
 2-54 (2) shall make available a digital version of each  
 2-55 specialty license plate authorized by this chapter, other than  
 2-56 personalized license plates authorized for marketing and sale under  
 2-57 Subchapter J, provided that:  
 2-58 (A) each issuance of a specialty license plate  
 2-59 with restricted distribution, including a license plate authorized  
 2-60 under Subchapter C, D, E, or F, must be approved by the department;  
 2-61 and  
 2-62 (B) the provider shall remit to the department in  
 2-63 the manner prescribed by the department all money:  
 2-64 (i) payable to the department; or  
 2-65 (ii) required to be used or deposited in the  
 2-66 manner prescribed by the law establishing the license plate;  
 2-67 (3) may contract with the private vendor under  
 2-68 Subchapter J to make available a digital version of a personalized  
 2-69 license plate authorized for marketing and sale under that

3-1 subchapter, provided that the contract shall conform with any  
3-2 applicable requirements of Subchapter J and the terms of the  
3-3 private vendor's contract with the department;

3-4 (4) shall promptly update the display of the  
3-5 registration insignia to reflect the current registration period  
3-6 for the vehicle and, on request of the department, suspend the  
3-7 display of the registration insignia or indicate on the license  
3-8 plate that the registration insignia for the vehicle is expired;

3-9 (5) may provide any service related to the issuance of  
3-10 a digital license plate that is authorized by board rule, including  
3-11 the sale, lease, and installation of and customer service for a  
3-12 digital license plate; and

3-13 (6) may charge a fee, payable in installments, for the  
3-14 issuance of a digital license plate or any additional services  
3-15 provided by the provider for that license plate.

3-16 Sec. 504.157. DEFENSE TO PROSECUTION OF CERTAIN OFFENSES.  
3-17 It is a defense to prosecution of an offense involving the operation  
3-18 of a motor vehicle and relating to the placement of a license plate  
3-19 or the display of a registration insignia that the vehicle was  
3-20 operated in compliance with rules issued under this subchapter  
3-21 governing the placement of a digital license plate or the display of  
3-22 a registration insignia on a digital license plate, as applicable.

3-23 SECTION 2. Not later than December 31, 2019, the board of  
3-24 the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles shall adopt the rules  
3-25 required by Subchapter B-1, Chapter 504, Transportation Code, as  
3-26 added by this Act, and any other rules necessary to implement and  
3-27 administer that subchapter.

3-28 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
3-29 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
3-30 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
3-31 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
3-32 Act takes effect September 1, 2019.

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