

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
85R11157 BEE-D

S.B. 1560
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Transportation
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As Filed

AUTHOR'S / SPONSOR'S STATEMENT OF INTENT

According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, 31 states require two license plates and 19 require one license plate. Texas is one of the 31 that requires two license plates. Interested parties suggest that not only do two license plates impose additional expense on citizens, some vehicles simply do not provide a space for placement of a front license plate. As a result, owners of those vehicles must drill into the bumper or body of the vehicle in order to comply with the two license plate requirement. Further, if an individual does not wish to drill into the bumper to hang the license plate, the individual must display the license plate on the dashboard of the passenger side of the vehicle. Placement of the license plate on the dashboard provides no measureable benefit to identification of the vehicle and adversely affects the driver's ability to safely operate the vehicle. Placement of the license plate in this location causes serious safety concerns as the reflection blocks the driver from clearly seeing through the passenger side windshield due to the reflection of the license plate.

S.B. 1560 remedies this by providing for an exemption to the two license plate requirement for vehicles that lack a dedicated area on the front bumper, due to the manufacturer failing to provide a location on the vehicle for placement of a front license plate.

As proposed, S.B. 1560 amends current law relating to the offense of operating certain vehicles without a license plate.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

This bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Section 504.943, Transportation Code, by amending Subsection (b) and adding Subsection (b-1), as follows:

(b) Provides that a person commits an offense if the person operates on a public highway during a registration period a certain vehicle, including a motor vehicle equipped by the manufacturer with not more than one area to display a license plate that does not display a license plate that has been assigned by the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (TxDMV) for the period and complies with TxDMV rules regarding the placement of license plates.

(b-1) Defines "area to display a license plate."

SECTION 2. Makes application of this Act prospective.

SECTION 3. Effective date: September 1, 2017.