



82ND LEGISLATIVE UPDATE OFFENSES RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION CODE

HB 0042

- Amends **TN 550.025** to require an operator of a motor vehicle who strikes a structure, fixture or highway landscaping resulting only in damage to notify the owner, show TDL and report the accident. Applies only in connection with a motor vehicle accident that occurs on or after 9/1/2011. Class C if less than \$200, Class B if more than \$200.

HB 0090

- Amends **TN 521.233** to requires DPS to suspend a hardship license if the holder is convicted of 2 or more moving violations committed within a 12-month period
- Deletes provision for driving training course and issuing temporary permit good for 60 days and is renewable for applicant dealing with a family emergency.
- Effective 9-1-2011

HB 0109

- Adds to **TN 545.3561** to allows the authority of a county or municipality to temporarily to lower the *prima facia* speed limit on a road or highway at accident reconstruction sites.
- Requires temporary signs to be posted and the usual speed limit signs to be concealed.
- All signs are to return to normal after the investigation is complete.
- Effective 9-1-2001

HB 0253

- Amends **HS 192.003** to change failure to report a birth or file a birth certificate from a class C to a Class A.
- Effective 9-1-2011

HB 0378

- Amends **TN 545.157** (passing authorized emergency vehicle) to include tow trucks using a mounted light bar. Driver must vacate the lane closest, or slow to a speed not to exceed 20 mph less than the posted speed limit, or 5mph when the posted speed limit is 25.
- Amends **TN 545.301** to provide that the provisions prohibiting stopping, parking, or leaving a vehicle on the main traveled part of the highway outside a business or residence district do not apply to a tow truck performing tow truck duties.
- Effective 9-1 -2011

HB 559

- Amends **TN 504.315** to allow The TxDMV to issue specialty license plates to recipients of the Bronze Star medal and Bronze Star medal of Valor.
- Amends **TN 681.008** to include Bronze Medal recipients as exempt from payment of parking meter fees other than by federal government
- Effective 9-1-2011

HB 0885

- Amends **TN 544.007** to exclude a freeway entrance ramp control signal or a pedestrian hybrid beacon from the requirement to stop when the signal is dark.
- Effective 6-17-2011

HB 0890

- Amends TN 548.052 to provide that a vehicle bearing a custom vehicle license plate or street rod license is not subject to compulsory inspection.
- “Custom vehicle” – at least 25 years old and manufactured after 1948
- “Street Rod” – was manufactured before 1949 or resembles a vehicle manufactured before 1949 and is not altered from design.
- Effective 9-1-2011

HB 0993

- Adds to TN 546.007 to allow a firefighter employed by a general law municipality, when performing official duties, to close one or more lanes of a road or highway to protect the safety of persons or property.
- Effective 9-1-2011

HB 1116

- Adds to TN 545.616 to create an offense if a person, other than law enforcement acting in official capacity, uses, attempts to use, installs, operates, or attempts to operate a radar interference device in a motor vehicle operated by the person.
- New Class C offense
- Not an offense to merely possess a radar – jamming device.
- Effective 9-1-2011

HB 1178

- Adds to **TN 504.317** to authorize the TxDMV to issue specialty license plate for female active or former members of the armed forces to include the words “Women Veteran”
- Effective 6-17-2011

HB 1201

- Relating to repeal of authority for the establishment and operation of the Trans- Texas Corridor – Removes all remaining references in state law to the Trans- Texas Corridor.
- Amends **TN 224.1541** to allow Texas Transportation Commission to authorize the operation of a vehicle that exceeds the weight and size limitations on a lane designated as an exclusive lane and is supported by a traffic and engineering study.
- Amends **TN 545.353** to authorize TxTC to establish a speed limit not to exceed 85 mph on a part of a state highway if: that part of the highway system is designed to accommodate travel at that speed and after a traffic and engineering study is performed.
- Effective 6-17-2011

HB 1330

- Amends **TN 547.606** to require a road tractor, truck, trailer, truck-tractor in combination with a semitrailer, or semitrailer in combination with a towing vehicle that has at least two super single tires in the rearmost axle of the vehicle in the combination shall be equipped with safety guards or flaps.
- Effective 9-1-2011

HB 1353

- Amends **TN 545.352** to provide that an entity that establishes or alters a speed limit under this subchapter must establish the same speed limit for day or night.
- Amends **TN 545.353** give Texas Transportation Commission to alter speed limits.
- Amends **TN 545.355** to allow Commissioner's Court of a county to alter speed limit signs

HB 1395

- Amends PWC relating to boating
- Allows 13 years old to now operate PWCs or motorboats without supervision.
- Allows 6 years old operate PWCs or motor boats (less than 15 horse power), as long as there is supervision on board.
- Allows for dismissal of charge of proof of id (i.e. no driver's license on demand) while operating a watercraft (more than 15 horse power) if valid on date of offense.

HB 1422

- Amends **TN 501.102** to make the new offense of failing or refusing to surrender a regular certificate of title after notice from an insurance company that the vehicle non-repairable or is not a salvaged vehicle.
- Effective 9-1-2011

HB 1473

- Amends **TN 681.0111** to prohibit the altering of a disabled placard.
- Applies to either a falsely manufacture placard or an altered genuine placard
- Effective 9-1-2011

HB 1514

- Adds to **TN 521.1235** to allow the DPS to include the designation of “Veteran” on a driver’s license issued to a veteran.
- Effective 9-1-2011

HB 1523

- Amends **TN 643.253** to change the penalty for engaging in the engaging or the solicitation of transportation of household goods for compensation without being registered with DMV to a class C.
- It can be a class B if previously convicted and class A if convicted twice before.
- Effective 9-1-2011

HB 1899

- Amends **TN 545.425** to allow “no cell phones in school zones” notices to be posted at the county line or city limit signs instead of on school zone signs.
- Aimed at reducing cost of posting signs.
- If signs are non-complaint defendant may be acquitted by presenting affirmative defense.
- Effective 9-1-2011

HB 2080

- Amends **TN 681.003** to extend the authority to prescribe handicapped placards to PAs and APNs acting as the agent of a licensed physician.
- Effective 6-17-2011

HB 2357

- Amends Multiple sections of the Transportation Code:
TN 501.171
TN 502.471
TN 504.941
TN 520.015
TN 551.401
TN 681.012
- Creates multiple Transportation Code offenses for violating provisions relating to registering motor vehicle from which the original motor number has been removed, erased, or destroyed.
- Creates new types of registration permits for agricultural vehicles and creates criminal offenses for using those permits improperly.
- Amends sections relating to registration insignias, license plates, and related offenses.

HB 2466

- Amends **TN 545.424** to expand the prohibition on use of a cell phone by operators under age 18. Used to be prohibited only within 12 months of being licensed.
- Also prohibits an operator of a motorcycle or moped under 17 from using a cell phone.
- Except in cases of emergency
- Effective 9-1-2011

HB 2928

- Amends **TN 681.008** to exempt vehicles on which license plates exhibiting “Silver Star Medal” from paying parking fees.
- Effective 9-1-2011

HB 2981

- Adds to **TN 545.4145** to now make it an offense to ride in a boat (if under age 18) that is being towed by a motor vehicle on a public highway or street.
- Effective 9-1-2011

HB 3580

- Adds to **TN 504.317** to require Texas DMV to issue specialty plates for surviving spouses of disabled veterans.
- Effective 9-1-2011

SB 0197

- Amend **TN 548.6035** to create a class C offense if a person, in connection with an emissions test, knowingly places and inspection sticker on a motor vehicle which does not meet the emission requirement, they do not actually inspect the vehicle, they manipulate the emissions test result, they substitute another vehicles emission result or they bypass the fuel cap test.
- Effective 9-1-2011

SB 0493

- Adds to **TN 622.955** to increase the maximum gross weight limit and axle weight limit for any vehicle or combination of vehicles equipped with an idle reduction system, by an amount necessary to compensate for the additional weight of the idle reduction system

SB 0896

- Amends **TN 504.408** to allow issuance of a specialty license plate for the mother, father, surviving spouse or an immediate family member of a person who died while serving in the armed forces.
- Effective 9-1-2011

SB 1057

- Amends **TN 502.451** to provide that on transfer of a vehicle to a dealer who holds a general distinguishing number, the dealer must remove each license plate and the registration insignia issued for the vehicle, with the registration period remaining at the time of the sale or transfer to expire at that time.
- Effective 9-1-2011

SB 1608

- Amends **TN 521.025** to provide that if a defendant causes a wreck causing bodily injury or death and was not a licensed driver and did not have valid insurance, it is a class A.
- Effective 9-1-2011

SB 1610

- Amends **TN 547.701** to clarify that seatbelts in school buses is only mandated if the legislature has appropriated money for the purpose of reimbursing school districts for expenses.
- Effective 9-1-2011

SB 1755

- Amends **TN 504.202** to require the TxDMV to issue specialty license plates for recipients of the Distinguished Service Medal.
- Amends **TN 504.315** to authorize specialty license plate for recipient of the Distinguished Flying Cross Medal.
- Effective 9-1-2011

SB 1787

- Amends **TN 724.015** to include among the information provided by the officer to persons arrested for DWI or driving under the influence by a minor that if the person refuses to submit to taking of the specimen, the officer may apply for a warrant authorizing a specimen to be taken form the person.
- Effective 9-1-2011