

**SUBJECT:** Establishing a defense for operating a vehicle with an expired registration

**COMMITTEE:** Transportation — favorable, without amendment

**VOTE:** 13 ayes — Canales, Landgraf, Bernal, Y. Davis, Goldman, Hefner,  
Krause, Leman, Martinez, Ortega, Raney, Thierry, E. Thompson

0 nays

**WITNESSES:** For — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Terri Hall, Texas TURF, Texans  
for Toll-Free Highways; Stephanie Ingersoll; Read King; Joseph  
Longhurst)

Against — None

On — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Jeremiah Kuntz, Texas Department  
of Motor Vehicles)

**BACKGROUND:** Transportation Code sec. 502.407 makes it an offense for a person to  
operate a motor vehicle on a public highway more than five days after the  
expiration of that vehicle's registration or if a valid registration insignia is  
not affixed to the vehicle.

Concerned parties have suggested that it reasonable to allow people more  
time to register their vehicles should the county assessor-collector's office  
be closed for an extended period, such as during a natural disaster.

**DIGEST:** HB 2835 would establish a defense to prosecution for the offense of  
operating a vehicle with an expired registration if, at the time of the  
offense, the office of the county assessor-collector was closed for a  
protracted period of time and the vehicle's registration had been expired  
for less than 30 working days.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2019, and would apply only to an  
offense committed on or after that date.