

SUBJECT: Authorizing certain revisions to motor vehicle inspection fees

COMMITTEE: Homeland Security & Public Safety — committee substitute recommended

VOTE: 6 ayes — Guillen, Bowers, Canales, Dorazio, Goodwin, Troxclair
1 nays — Harless
2 absent — Jarvis Johnson, Holland

WITNESSES: For — Charles Ray, DEKRA VP Operations Vehicle Inspections and Claims; Charissa Barnes, Official Inspection Station; Greg Cole, Texas State Inspection Association (*Registered, but did not testify*: David Batton, Harris County Deputies Organization FOP 39)
Against — Byron Schirmbeck, Texas Campaign for Liberty
On — Jason Hester, Texas Department of Public Safety

BACKGROUND: Concerns have been raised that the cost of conducting a vehicle inspection can exceed the amount that an inspector can charge for the service under state law, which results in a financial loss for that inspector.

DIGEST: CSHB 5081 would require the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to set the inspection fee for a motor vehicle other than a moped by calculating an amount that would allow the inspector to retain the equivalent of one hour's pay at the minimum hourly wage prescribed by the state budget. DPS would be required to set the fee amount by September 1 of each year.

DPS would be required to adopt these provisions as soon as practicable after the bill's effective date.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2023, and would apply only to a relevant inspection performed on or after that date.