

## Revising motor-vehicle dealership and titling regulations

SB 1504 by Harris (Krusee)

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DIGEST:	SB 1504 would have changed various statutes governing motor vehicles. It would have redefined off-road vehicles as physically capable of being titled, and towable recreational vehicles as eligible to be titled and registered, under Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) rules. The bill would have allowed a person to operate an automobile dealership whose pending license application to buy an existing dealership was uncontested, substantially complete, and on file with TxDOT's Motor Vehicle Board, and who had notified the board properly. The bill would have set forth conditions under which manufacturers or distributors could own interests in car rental companies. SB 1504 also would have made license applications and other information on file relating to license applicants or holders confidential and not subject to public scrutiny. The information could have been disclosed only if subpoenaed in judicial or administrative proceedings.
GOVERNOR'S REASON FOR VETO:	<p>"Senate Bill No. 1504 as engrossed was acceptable, but a problematic amendment would impede access to public records. The bill would limit access to information in an application for a license to operate a motor vehicle dealership from disclosure under the Public Information Act. The owner's name, business address, and phone number should be available to the public. Personal addresses and phone numbers should be protected. These records could only be disclosed in a judicial or administrative proceeding in accordance with a lawful subpoena.</p> <p>"Restricted access to these records would hinder the filing of legitimate consumer complaints against vehicle dealerships."</p>
RESPONSE:	Neither Sen. Chris Harris, the bill's author, nor Rep. Mike Krusee, the House sponsor, had a comment on the veto.
NOTES:	SB 1504 passed the House on the Local, Consent, and Resolutions Calendar and was not analyzed in a <i>Daily Floor Report</i> .