

April 14, 2020

Please review and distribute as appropriate.

Governor Abbott Waived Certain Vehicle Registration Regulations in Texas due to COVID-19

The Texas Department of Motor Vehicles has received numerous phone calls from motorists who have received citations from law enforcement for registration violations. We are sending this communication to law enforcement officials in order to provide clarification regarding Governor Abbott's waivers pertaining to vehicle registration.

On March 16, 2020, Governor Greg Abbott granted waivers to Transportation Code §§ 502.040, 502.045, 502.407, 502.471, and 502.473; and 43 TAC §217.25 and §217.28 (<https://gov.texas.gov/news/post/governor-abbott-waives-certain-vehicle-registration-titling-and-parking-placard-regulations-in-texas>). The registration waivers apply to the general rule requiring registration, delinquent registration, the operation of vehicles with expired license plates, the general penalty for offenses under Chapter 502, and the operation of vehicles without registration insignia. The waiver for expired license plates allows motorists a temporary extension to renew registration. The temporary extension to renew registration means vehicle owners should not receive a citation for expired registration, regardless of when the registration expired.

We also ask law enforcement agencies to remind their officers of these waivers. The TxDMV will provide notice when normal services resume and the waiver has expired.

Thank you,

Jeremiah Kuntz, Director
Vehicle Titles and Registration Division

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