

## CHAPTER 801

H.B. No. 1837

## AN ACT

relating to the identification of city and county-owned vehicles and heavy equipment.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:*

SECTION 1. Section 1, Chapter 235, Acts of the 56th Legislature, Regular Session, 1959 (Article 6701m-2, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes), is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 1. On every city or county-owned motor vehicle and piece of heavy equipment, there shall be printed upon each side the name of the city or county, followed in letters ~~that are plainly legible at a distance of not less than 100 feet, [of not less than two (2) inches high by]~~ the title of the department or official having the custody of the vehicle or piece of heavy equipment, and the inscription shall be in a color sufficiently different from the body of the vehicle or piece of heavy equipment so that the lettering shall be plainly legible, and the official having control thereof shall have the wording placed thereon as prescribed herein, and whoever drives any motor vehicle or piece of heavy equipment belonging to any city or county upon the streets of any town or city or upon a public highway without the inscription printed thereon shall be fined not less than Twenty-five Dollars (\$25) nor more than One Hundred Dollars (\$100). Provided however, *upon approval of the governing body in the case of a city or the approval of the commissioners court in the case of a county*, that the provisions of this Section shall not apply to automobiles used by police, sheriffs' and constables' departments, the office of criminal district attorney or district attorney, or juvenile probation department vehicles used to transport children, when used for the purpose of performing official duties~~, and which shall be unmarked at the discretion of the governing body of the city, in the case of city-owned vehicles, or at the discretion of the commissioners court, in the case of county-owned vehicles~~. This exception for unmarked vehicles does not apply to "contract deputies".

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 1987.

SECTION 3. The importance of this legislation and the crowded condition of the calendars in both houses create an emergency and an imperative public necessity that the constitutional rule requiring bills to be read on three several days in each house be suspended, and this rule is hereby suspended.

Passed by the House on May 15, 1987, by a non-record vote. Passed by the Senate on May 30, 1987, by the following vote: Yeas 30, Nays 0.

Approved June 19, 1987.

Effective Sept. 1, 1987.