

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
76R3530 JD-D

S.B. 1631
By: Shapiro
Criminal Justice
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As Filed

DIGEST

Currently, Texas law establishes that when a person is driving with a suspended driver's license due to a Driving While Intoxicated (DWI) conviction, the penalty is a Class A misdemeanor. This punishment is minimal and serves little as a deterrent. S.B. 1631 would increase the penalty for driving with a suspended driver's license due to a DWI to a State Jail Felony.

PURPOSE

As proposed, S.B. 1631 establishes provisions regarding the penalty for driving while a driver's license is invalid.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

This bill does not grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Section 521.457, Transportation Code, by amending Subsections (e) and (f), redesignating Subsection (g) as Subsection (h), and adding a new Subsection (g), to set forth conditions by which an offense under this section is punishable, except as provided by Subsections (f) and (g). Provides that Subsection (f) does not apply to an offense punishable under Subsection (g). Provides that an offense under this section is a state jail felony if it is shown on the trial of the offense that the person's driver's license was suspended for certain offenses regarding Driving While Intoxicated. Makes conforming changes.

SECTION 2. Effective date: September 1, 1999.
Makes application of this Act prospective.

SECTION 3. Emergency clause.