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Department of Budget & Management

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Scofflaw Vehicle Registration Block

PURPOSE

The County's Tax Assessor Collector can refuse to register/renew a motor vehicle because the owner of the vehicle owes outstanding fines, fees, or other obligations related to Class "C" traffic violations. The County may contract with a city/municipality through an interlocal agreement to block registrations on their behalf as well.

STATUTORY IMPACT

702.003 REFUSAL TO REGISTER VEHICLE: A county assessor-collector or the department may refuse to register a motor vehicle if the assessor-collector or the department receives under a contract information from a municipality that the owner of the vehicle has an outstanding warrant from that municipality for failure to appear or failure to pay a fine on a complaint that involves the violation of a traffic law.

DEPARTMENTS IMPACTED

The County of Hidalgo Tax Office/Motor Vehicles Registration would notify the registrant of the Scofflaw hold and direct them to the proper city/municipality to release hold.

FISCAL IMPACT

The County of Hidalgo may charge a flat fee or a percentage of the fines or fees collected on behalf of the city/municipality. Potential revenues generated will be dependant on the total number of outstanding fines/fees the city/municipality will submit to TxDOT for blocking the registration.