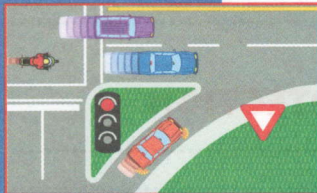


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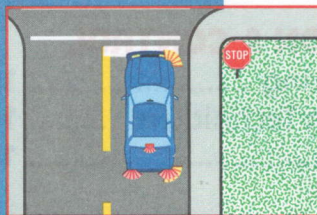
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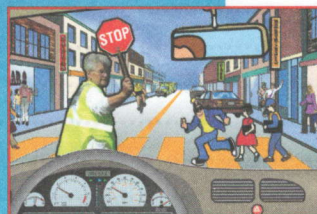
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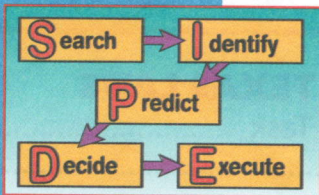
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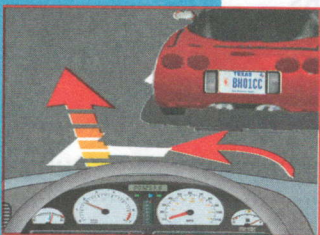
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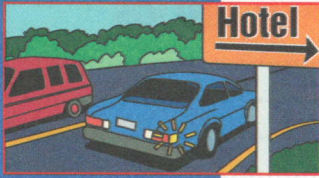
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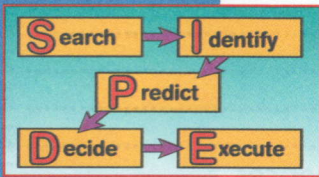


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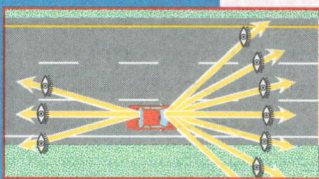


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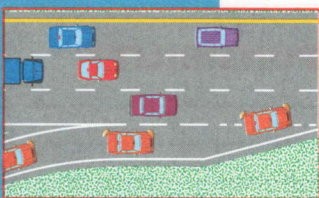
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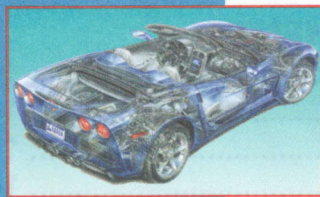
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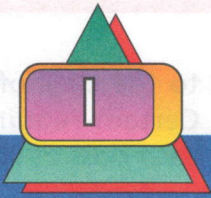


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Texas is one of the most mobile societies in the world. A vast network of roadways has been built to accommodate the public and private vehicles that provide this mobility. From pedestrians to the largest transport trucks, they all share this system.

Each individual person, whether walking, riding a bicycle, or operating a motorized vehicle, is the nucleus of the safe and efficient operation of the Highway Transportation System or HTS.

Now that you are about to acquire your first driver's license and become a driver, you must become more familiar with this role and its responsibilities. You must also be aware of the procedures for acquiring your license and the regulations that govern this privilege.



AFTER COMPLETING THIS CHAPTER, THE STUDENT MUST BE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE OF AND RESPOND TO:

- the safe operation of the HTS.
- the criteria for acquiring a license in Texas.
- the vehicle inspection requirements in Texas.
- the safety responsibility requirements in Texas.



Understanding the HTS

As a passenger, you have more than likely experienced some of the freedom that an automobile provides.

Millions of Texas residents drive countless miles every day for a wide variety of reasons. Meanwhile, others ride bicycles or motorcycles, drive trucks, vans, or buses to earn a living, or

operate emergency or other vehicles to supply essential public services. All of these people (and others) must share the same network of public highways. This variety of road users will inevitably lead to potential conflicts.

A multitude of professionals are involved in the proper planning or improvement of this complex



system of roadways. From planning and design, to the placement of traffic control devices, engineers labor to provide a safe environment. Municipal, state and federal regulations govern all aspects of the use of the HTS.

Federal, state, and local governments cooperate to enact legislation that governs the operation of the HTS.

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT passes laws setting general standards for the use of the HTS.

Some examples are:

- **THE NATIONAL TRAFFIC AND MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY ACT-** legislating regulations for vehicle manufacturers; such as safety features, vehicle emissions and recall of defects.
- **THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY SAFETY ACT-** establishes general guidelines for state regulations concerning vehicle registration and inspection, driver licensing and traffic laws.
- **THE UNIFORM TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES ACT-** regulates the shape, color, and location of road signs.

TEXAS, following the guidelines set by federal laws, enacts statutes that regulate all aspects of the HTS: the ownership, registration, and inspection of vehicles; the licensing of drivers; traffic laws and courts; and highway construction/maintenance.

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, cities, towns, etc. pass ordinances that regulate the use of the HTS within their regions. They govern the speed limit, traffic directions, particular rules at intersections, parking rules, etc.

It is your responsibility to know the rules. The Texas Department of Public Safety issues a handbook on the specific rules and regulations that apply in Texas. **IGNORANCE OF THE LAW IS NO EXCUSE!**

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

The Texas regulatory agency (Texas Department of Public Safety) authorizes individuals to operate motor vehicles by issuing licenses and

endorsements according to the class of vehicle that will be operated. Certain requirements must be met to apply for each class of license.

A driver's license is a privilege, not a right, that is granted by the state. As such, the Department of Public Safety has been empowered to restrict, revoke, or suspend the license, or driving privilege of individuals under specific conditions (administrative revocation).

The Texas Department of Public Safety is also required to keep a **record** ("**POINT SYSTEM**") on every driver in order to identify, penalize, and deny the privilege of operating motor vehicles to persons who, by their conduct and record, have demonstrated their indifference for the safety of others. These drivers have also shown their disrespect for the laws of the state, for the orders of the courts, as well as the statutorily required acts of the administrative agencies that govern the HTS.

Having a driver's license is a privilege. Once you obtain your driver's license, you must continually demonstrate you have the skill, knowledge, and attitude to drive safely, or the license may be restricted, suspended, or revoked. The Texas Department of Public Safety has access to information about all crashes, traffic law violations, and certain drug convictions. However, only those crashes that involve findings of your responsibility for civil infractions, as well as convictions for felonies or misdemeanors, are considered to be public information.

Certain violations and license suspensions under the Texas Implied Consent Law stay on your record for at least fifteen years. A no-insurance infraction as well as DWI's, MIP's, DUI's stay on your record for life

OUT-OF-STATE INFRACTIONS

The Texas Department of Public Safety is also notified of any traffic crashes, convictions, and findings of responsibility in other states or jurisdictions. These will be recorded on your Texas **driving record**, and **remain there for the same period** as any conviction that occurs in Texas (**three years for infractions/crashes**).



When your **driving record** shows, by the accumulation of a specified number of points, that you have had problems driving safely and obeying the traffic laws, you will be contacted by the Texas Department of Public Safety.

THE POLICE

All police agencies are empowered to supervise the operation of the HTS and enforce Texas traffic laws. If a uniformed law enforcement officer driving an official police vehicle signals you to stop, you are required to pull out of traffic and stop as soon as safely possible.

The officer may be stopping you for a variety of reasons. You may be receiving an emergency message, your vehicle may match the description of a stolen vehicle, it may have defective equipment, or the officer may believe you have committed a violation.

When stopped, you must be able to produce your driver's license, the vehicle registration, and proof of financial responsibility (insurance) for the officer.

Police officers may stop vehicle operators whenever they have reasonable grounds to suspect that an infraction has been committed. They may serve a citation, confiscate or mark the driver's license, destroy the driver's license in rare cases, have a vehicle towed, etc.

Drivers must stop when signaled to do so, assist at the scene of a collision upon request, sign a citation to appear in court, accompany the officer to the station when requested, submit to a breath/blood test when asked, and in general, cooperate with any instructions from the police.

THE COURTS

Under Texas law, some traffic violations are civil infractions; others are misdemeanors, or felonies. Depending on the charge and how it is resolved, a driver may be fined, referred to a special program, or in the most serious cases, sent to jail or prison.

Courts are structured to adjudicate and impose

sentences and penalties. They do not create the laws; they merely interpret and impose sentences for the infractions of the law. They decide whether drivers charged with violating the laws are guilty or innocent.

Drivers are required to appear, testify, and conform to all imposed penalties. In most cases, if a driver does not resolve a citation, his/her driver's license will be suspended until it is resolved.

If a person continues to drive after he/she has been notified of the suspension or revocation of their driver's license, he /she will be charged with a misdemeanor. The vehicle registration will be cancelled, the suspension/revocation will be extended for an additional like period, a fine and/or jail time will be imposed.

The court may also order the impoundment, for a given period, of the motor vehicle being driven at the time of the offense (provided that the defendant was an owner of the vehicle at the time of the offense and is an owner on the date of conviction).

Many other varied penalties can be imposed by the courts - special programs, community service, etc. - depending on the infraction that was committed by the person who has been found guilty.

Yet, despite all of these efforts, the safe operation of the HTS depends on the attitude and behavior of each of its users.

ROAD USER RESPONSIBILITY

With the freedom and mobility the license to drive will grant you, you must be prepared to accept the responsibilities as well. If your vehicle was alone on the road, driving would be a simple task. The fact is that the HTS is becoming more and more crowded every day. It is your duty to know and abide by the rules and further, to be courteous and communicate with other road users.

You are responsible for your safety, the safety of your passengers, and the safety of any others who share the HTS.



CLASS & BEHIND-THE-WHEEL PREPARATION

Although completing a state-approved public or private driver education course may not be required for all license applicants, it is strongly recommended that all students experience a driver education program. This program will provide the foundation of knowledge, understanding, skills, and experiences necessary for the novice driver as well as the parent, guardian, or adult mentor to launch and continue the lifelong learning process of legal and responsible reduced-risk driving practices.

This manual, the student workbook, and other supplemental materials will be valuable aids to your proper understanding of the course your school presents. Each school designs and schedules their own program within certain norms. Make sure you take note of the hours, dates, and topics that are to be given. Prepare yourself by reading the chapters prior to the class. Review the material after class by completing the review section in this book and the appropriate sections in the workbook. If anything is not understood, ask your instructor at the start of the next class.

With the same diligence, apply yourself to the

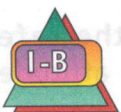
requirements for the behind-the-wheel segment of the driver education program.

Your parents, guardians, or adult mentors must become involved in this behind-the-wheel segment of the program while coordinating and communicating with your program instructors. They will provide you with the opportunity to practice the skills and knowledge provided by the Texas Driver Education and Traffic Safety Program.

DRIVING PLAN

With the assistance of your program instructors as well as your parents or guardians, you should formulate a driving plan that will enable you, at your own pace, to acquire the foundation of knowledge, understanding, skills, and experience necessary to launch and continue the lifelong learning process of legal and responsible reduced-risk driving practices in the HTS.

This driving plan should be formulated from the outset based on the material that has been presented in your driver education program. As the program progresses, the driving plan should be modified in keeping with the new material presented as well as your increasing experience.

**Texas Licensing Regulations**

The Texas Department of Public Safety may not grant you a driver's license unless you fulfill all of the requirements necessary to obtain your first license.

LEARNER'S PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

A learner's or instruction permit is issued with a photograph for the purpose of allowing a student driver to legally practice driving when accompanied by a licensed driver who is occupying the seat beside the driver. This licensed driver must be at least 21 years of age and have at least one year of driving experience.

To qualify for an learner's permit, you must be at least 15 years of age and be enrolled in a driver education program (parent or school). **Until you are 18 years of age**, when you apply for an learner's permit or a driver's license, you must prove that you:

- 1) Have obtained a high school diploma or its equivalent; or
- 2) Are a student enrolled in a public or private school who attended school for at least 80 days in the fall or spring semester preceding the date of application; or
- 3) Have been enrolled for at least 45 days, and are currently enrolled in a program to



TRAFFIC SAFETY EDUCATION PROGRAM

Each school district has predetermined policies and regulations (within the norms of the Texas Education Agency) governing their Traffic Safety Education Programs. Some of these are:

- goals and course structure
- attendance requirements,
- student worksheet procedures,
- procedures for test failures,
- cheating/copying on tests or worksheets,
- scheduling on-street instruction,
- student responsibilities and opportunities,
- classroom schedule,
- assessment /grading policies,
- permit procedures,
- classroom and laboratory programs,
- parent-involvement program,
- advantages and disadvantages.

YOUR FIRST CLASS C DRIVER'S LICENSE

After successfully completing a driver education program, **if you are under 25 years of age, you must complete the Impact Texas Teen Drivers (ITTD)** course by registering on-line at <https://impacttexasteendrivers.dps.texas.gov/profile/signup.aspx>. After completion, **print the certificate and bring it to the Drivers License Office** to apply for your Class C driver's license.

At the Drivers License Office, you must:

- Present a Texas Driver Education Certificate (Form DE 964) stating that you have successfully completed both the classroom and laboratory phases of the Texas Driver and Traffic Safety Education Course.
- Present a VOE Form (proof of school attendance - under the age of 18) .
- Present the **ITTD** certificate (under age 25).
- Show evidence of financial responsibility in accordance with the Texas Motor Vehicle Safety-Responsibility Act.
- Provide index fingerprints (if not taken when applying for your learner's permit).
- Pay the required fees.

SAFETY TIPS



Learning the mental and physical skills necessary to drive safely takes time. Practice with your parent/guardian or designated driver will develop the experience needed to drive in a risk-reduction collision-free manner.



After passing a driving test administered by a DPS examiner a Provisional Class C license will be issued. This provisional license will be valid until the applicants 18th birthday, at which time, the license will be issued for up to 6 years. The Provisional (purple title) and Under 21 (red title) Licenses are issued in a vertical format (above). An ID card, which is available upon request, for those under 21 years of age will also use the vertical format and will feature a green title.

GRADUATED DRIVER LICENSE PROGRAM

The Texas Graduated Driver License (GDL) Program was implemented as a result of Senate Bill 577. This law changed original licensing requirements for persons under age 18. GDL creates two phases of driving requirements for minors as well as an additional 30 hours of parent/guardian supervised practice. Bills 2730 and 339 restrict all drivers under the age of 18 from using wireless communication devices while driving.

A person under age 18 must show proof of driver education, verification of current enrollment and attendance in school (or high school graduation or GED), proof of social security number, as well as proof of identification (TRC 521.204, 521.222 and 545.424).



Phase One

Applicants under age 18 must hold a learner's permit or hardship license for a minimum of six months prior to issuance of a provisional Class A, B, or C driver license. In addition, the minimum age of the person who must accompany any learner's permit holder during the operation of the vehicle is 21 years of age. Except for hardship licenses, a minor is not eligible to graduate to Phase Two (provisional license) for a Class A, B, or C driver license until they have completed this phase and met all other current licensing and age requirements.

Under the GDL program, there is no minimum time that a person must hold a restricted motorcycle or moped license before they can apply for a Class M license. Phase One does not apply to Class M or Hardship license holders.

The learner's permit must remain valid during the mandatory six-month period to meet this regulation. If an learner's permit expires during this period, the permit must be renewed to complete the six-month requirement.

Once the applicant has held a valid learner's permit or hardship license for a minimum of six months, has reached the age of 16 for a Class C license (17 years of age for a Class B or Class A non-CDL), and has completed both the classroom and laboratory (driving), portions of driver education, they are eligible to "graduate" to Phase Two.

Phase Two

Phase Two restricts the driving privileges of persons under 18 years of age during the twelve-month period following the issuance of an original Class A, B, or C driver license (Provisional License). These persons may not operate a motor vehicle with more than one passenger in the vehicle under the age of 21 who is not a family member. In addition, they may not operate a motor vehicle between midnight and 5:00 a.m. unless the operation of the vehicle is necessary for the operator to attend or participate in employment or a school-related activity or because of a medical emergency.

The license restriction will state, "TRC 545 424 applies until mm dd yy" and will indicate the date in which the second phase of the graduated driver license expires for the person who holds that license. Upon completion of the twelve-month period, the above time and/or passenger restrictions no longer apply. The licensee may wish to apply for a duplicate license at a driver license office to remove this restriction. A fee is required to obtain a duplicate license. If not, this restriction will be removed at the time the applicant renews the license on their next birthday, provided the Phase Two twelve-month time has lapsed.

Provisional Driver License

All original licenses, other than an learner's permit, issued to persons under 18 years of age will be marked "Provisional." The license will be vertical and will be dated to expire on the applicant's next birthday occurring after date of issuance. A fee is required to obtain this license. The renewal fee is required for each one year of renewal period. No renewal notice will be sent as it is the responsibility of the applicant to obtain a verification of enrollment and attendance from their school.

If the learner's permit or driver license is not due for renewal a fee is required for a duplicate learner's permit or duplicate license (i.e.: lost license, change of address, removal of GDL restrictions).

LICENSE RESTRICTIONS

A reasonable restriction may be placed on your driver's license to improve the safety of your driving. This restriction is not meant to interfere with your driving but to make you a better driver. In such cases, a code letter is placed on the license which designates the type of restriction. The following list illustrates some of these restrictions and the code letter assigned.

- A** - With corrective lenses
- B** - LOFS age 21 or over
- C** - Daytime driving only
- D** - Not to exceed 45 mph
- E** - No expressway driving
- I** - M/C not to exceed 50 cc



- J** - Licensed M/C Operator age 18 or over in sight
- K** - Moped
- S** - Outside mirror or hearing aid
- T** - Automatic transmission
- U** - Applicable prosthetic devices
- V** - Applicable vehicle devices
- W** - Power steering

Contact your local Drivers License Office or a Drivers License Trooper for the procedures to remove any restrictions from your driver's license or learner's permit. Endorsements, which can be added to your license for Commercial Driver License (CDL) purposes, require special applications and testing. Check with the above-mentioned for the information and procedures.

RENEWING YOUR DRIVER'S LICENSE

A renewal notice card will be mailed to you about 6 weeks before your license expires. The notice will be sent to the last address that you gave to the Department of Public Safety.



Vehicle Inspection and Registration

All motor vehicles registered in Texas including cars, trucks, motorcycles, motor scooters, and mopeds must be inspected each year by an official motor vehicle inspection station. An inspection station or inspector may not issue a **Vehicle Inspection Report** for a vehicle unless the owner or operator furnishes proof of financial responsibility at the time of inspection. A personal automobile insurance policy used as evidence of financial responsibility must be written for a term of 30 days or more as required by the Insurance Code.

REQUIRED EQUIPMENT

A motor vehicle must have the following items inspected, and they must be in proper working order for your vehicle to be considered safe:

- 1) **Brakes** (including power brakes)
 - The foot brake must stop the vehicle within 25 feet at a speed of 20 mph.
 - The parking brake must be adequate to stop and hold the vehicle.

Remember, if you do not receive this notice, it is still up to you to renew your license. Application for renewal must be made in person at any Texas Drivers License Office, except licensees who have received an invitation from the Department of Public Safety to renew by an alternate means, as specified by the invitation. You will be asked questions concerning your medical history. Depending on the circumstances, your case may be referred to the Texas Medical Advisory Board for their opinion.

DRIVING WITHOUT A LICENSE PENALTIES

The penalties are:

- **1st conviction** - up to \$200 fine.
- **2nd conviction** (in 1 year) - \$25 to \$200 fine.
- **3rd conviction** (in 1 year after 2nd) - \$25 to \$500 fine and/or 72 hours to 6 months in jail, or both.

2) Lights

- Two headlights - one on each side of the front - with a beam indicator light showing when the high beams are illuminated.
- Two red taillights - one on each side of the rear of the vehicle.
- Two red brake lights - one on each side of the rear of the vehicle - that are activated when the brake is depressed.
- Two white reverse lights - one on each side of the rear of the vehicle - that are activated when backing.
- Electric turn signals visible from the front and rear of the vehicle that can be activated by the driver.
- License plate light, white in color, which lights the rear license plate when any lights are activated.
- Two red reflectors, one on each side of the vehicle, visible from 600 feet (may be in combination with taillights).
- Parking lights, white or amber on the front



and red to the rear, activated by the driver (may be in combination with other lights).

- 3) **Horn**
Must be audible from a distance of 200 ft.
- 4) **Exhaust and emissions system**
A muffler and exhaust system to help reduce air pollution (emissions control equipment as designated by department rule).
- 5) **Safety glass**
All glass must be safety glass (replacements must meet department standards).
- 6) **License plates**
All vehicles must have one valid plate at the front and one at the rear (exceptions: dealer plates, government vehicles and some commercial vehicles).
- 7) **Windshield wipers**
Wiper blades and system for safety in inclement weather.
- 8) **Rearview mirrors**
One inside mirror as well as a left outside mirror shall be so located as to reflect a view of the road for a distance of at least 200 feet to the rear of the vehicle.
- 9) **Sunscreen**
Sunscreening devices, approved by department rule, unless the vehicle is exempt from sunscreen device restrictions under Section 547.613.
- 10) **Front seat belts**
Front seat belts are required in vehicles on which seat belt anchorages were part of the manufacturer's original equipment.
- 11) **Tires**
All vehicles must be equipped with tires that are in proper and safe condition with a minimum tread depth of 2/32nds of an inch.
- 12) **Fuel cap**
A fuel tank cap must be present and will be tested using pressurized testing equipment approved by department rule.

Antique and classic vehicles (as well as other vehicles) may be exempt from some of these regulations.

SAFETY TIPS



You are responsible for keeping your vehicle in good condition. The Texas inspection program gives you further safety protection. Its purpose is to ensure that the Texas vehicles on the highways are in safe working condition.

PROHIBITED EQUIPMENT

Certain equipment is considered unsafe and therefore not allowed:

- a red light showing from the front of the vehicle (except emergency vehicles);
- a bell, siren, or exhaust whistle (except on an emergency vehicle);
- a muffler cutout;
- anything that extends more than three inches beyond the left side or six inches beyond the right side of the body, running board, or fenders of a vehicle; and
- flashing red lights on the front of the vehicle (except on emergency vehicles or school and church buses).

MINIMUM ROAD CLEARANCE

A vehicle must not be modified or weighted in such a manner that the body is below the lowest part of the rims of the wheels.

DISPLAYING CERTIFICATE

As of March 2015, pass your inspection and retain your **Vehicle Inspection Report (VIR)**. When you renew your registration by mail, online, or in person; your inspection status will be verified electronically. You will be issued one sticker as proof of inspection and registration.

Two Steps - One Sticker.



NEW RESIDENTS

When a nonresident owner or operator establishes residency in Texas or enters into gainful employment, his/her vehicle may be operated for 30 days thereafter, after which the vehicle must be currently registered in Texas.





The Safety Responsibility Act

Texas enacted a law to ensure that all drivers are capable of paying in case they injure or kill a person, or damage property in a collision while operating a motor vehicle. This is referred to as the **Texas Safety Responsibility Law**.

All owners and/or operators of motor vehicles in Texas must have at least the minimum amount of liability coverage as required by this law.

The minimum auto insurance liability coverage required by Texas law is:

- \$30,000 per person,
- \$60,000 per collision (injuries), and
- \$25,000 for property damage.

When these minimum Texas insurance liability requirements are insufficient, you will be held personally responsible for any claims that exceed the dollar limits of your policy.

EVIDENCE OF FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

In order to comply with the Safety Responsibility Act, a driver (unless exempt) must purchase liability insurance or be self-insured under the provisions of the Act.

Most drivers carry auto insurance. They pay a premium, or fee, to provide protection from financial losses which may arise from a collision or mishap in which they are involved. The insurance company issues a policy, or written contract, and proof of insurance to the individual indicating how much and under what circumstances it will pay.

To be self-insured, an owner of a vehicle must:

- deposit money or securities with the state treasurer in at least the amount (\$55,000) required by the Texas Transportation Code (TRC), Section 601.12. The state controller will issue a certificate;
- deposit a bond with the Department of Public Safety as provided by TRC, Section 601.121. The Department will issue a certificate;

- deposit cash or a cashier's check with the county judge, of the county in which the vehicle is registered, in at least the amount (\$55,000) required by TRC Section 601.123. The judge will issue a certificate; or
- hold a certificate issued by the Department of Public Safety that shows a person has more than 25 vehicles registered in his/her name.

Evidence of financial responsibility (usually proof of insurance) must be presented to the proper authorities at the time a person applies for a driver's license, registers a motor vehicle, or obtains a motor vehicle inspection certificate, or renew the license plate.

In addition, every owner or operator of a motor vehicle in Texas is required, as a condition of driving, to furnish, upon request, proof of financial responsibility to a law enforcement officer or to another person involved in a collision.

FAILURE TO SHOW PROOF

If an owner or operator fails to show proof of financial responsibility when required, he/she may receive a citation. The court will dismiss the charge if proof is provided that a liability insurance policy was in effect when the citation was issued.

Upon conviction, a driver is subject to a \$175 to \$350 fine for a first offense. Second and subsequent convictions will result in driver's license and vehicle registration suspensions, in addition to a fine of \$350 to \$1,000. The court will also order the impoundment, for a period of 180 days, of the motor vehicle being driven at the time of the offense (provided that the defendant was an owner of the vehicle at the time of the offense and is an owner on the date of conviction). Before the court orders the release of the vehicle, evidence of financial responsibility must be presented to the court.

