Sec. 721.001. DEFINITION. In this chapter, "state agency" means a department, bureau, board, commission, or office of state government.

Sec. 721.002. INSCRIPTION REQUIRED ON STATE-OWNED MOTOR VEHICLES. (a) The official having control of a state-owned motor vehicle shall have printed on each side of the vehicle the word "Texas," followed by the title of the state agency having custody of the vehicle.

(b) The inscription must be in a color sufficiently different from the body of the motor vehicle so that the lettering is plainly legible at a distance of not less than 100 feet.

(c) The title of the state agency must be in letters not less than two inches high.

Sec. 721.003. EXEMPTION FROM INSCRIPTION REQUIREMENT FOR CERTAIN STATE-OWNED MOTOR VEHICLES. (a) The governing bodies of the following state agencies or divisions by rule may exempt from the requirements of Section 721.002 a motor vehicle that is under the control and custody of the agency or division:

(1) Texas Commission on Fire Protection;
(2) Texas State Board of Pharmacy;
(3) Department of State Health Services and Department of Aging and Disability Services;
(4) Department of Public Safety of the State of Texas;
(5) Texas Department of Criminal Justice;
(6) Board of Pardons and Paroles;
(7) Parks and Wildlife Department;
(8) Railroad Commission of Texas;
(9) Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission;
(10) Texas Department of Banking;
(11) Department of Savings and Mortgage Lending;
(12) Texas Juvenile Justice Department;
(13) Texas Commission on Environmental Quality;
(14) Texas Lottery Commission;
(15) the office of the attorney general;
(16) Texas Department of Insurance; and
(17) an agency that receives an appropriation under an article of the General Appropriations Act that appropriates money to the legislature.


(c) A rule adopted under this section must specify:
   (1) the purpose served by not printing on the motor vehicle the inscription required by Section 721.002; and
   (2) the primary use of the motor vehicle.

(d) A rule adopted under this section is not effective until the rule is filed with the secretary of state.

(e) A rule adopted by the Texas Lottery Commission under Subsection (a) may exempt from the requirements of Section 721.002 only a motor vehicle used exclusively for surveillance purposes.
Amended by:
Acts 2007, 80th Leg., R.S., Ch. 921 (H.B. 3167), Sec. 6.066, eff. September 1, 2007.
Acts 2007, 80th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1308 (S.B. 909), Sec. 48, eff. June 15, 2007.
Acts 2015, 84th Leg., R.S., Ch. 734 (H.B. 1549), Sec. 147, eff. September 1, 2015.

Sec. 721.004. INSCRIPTION REQUIRED ON MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY-OWNED MOTOR VEHICLES AND HEAVY EQUIPMENT. (a) The office having control of a motor vehicle or piece of heavy equipment owned by a municipality or county shall have printed on each side of the vehicle or equipment the name of the municipality or county,
followed by the title of the department or office having custody of
the vehicle or equipment.

(b) The inscription must be in a color sufficiently
different from the body of the vehicle or equipment so that the
lettering is plainly legible.

(c) The title of the department or office must be in letters
plainly legible at a distance of not less than 100 feet.

Sec. 721.005. EXEMPTION FROM INSCRIPTION REQUIREMENT FOR
CERTAIN MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY-OWNED MOTOR VEHICLES.

(a) The governing body of a municipality may exempt from the
requirements of Section 721.004:

(1) an automobile when used to perform an official
duty by a:
(A) police department;
(B) magistrate as defined by Article 2.09, Code
of Criminal Procedure;
(C) medical examiner;
(D) municipal code enforcement officer
designated to enforce environmental criminal laws; or
(E) municipal fire marshal or arson
investigator;
or
(2) an automobile used by a municipal employee only
when conducting an investigation involving suspected fraud or other
mismanagement within the municipality.

(b) The commissioners court of a county may exempt from the
requirements of Section 721.004:

(1) an automobile when used to perform an official
duty by a:
(A) police department;
(B) sheriff's office;
(C) constable's office;
(D) criminal district attorney's office;
(E) district attorney's office;
(F) county attorney's office;
(G) magistrate as defined by Article 2.09, Code
of Criminal Procedure;

(H) county fire marshal's office; or

(I) medical examiner; or

(2) a juvenile probation department vehicle used to transport children, when used to perform an official duty.

(c) An exemption provided under this section does not apply to a contract deputy.


Amended by:

Acts 2007, 80th Leg., R.S., Ch. 45 (S.B. 526), Sec. 1, eff. May 8, 2007.

Sec. 721.006. OPERATION OF VEHICLE IN VIOLATION OF CHAPTER; OFFENSE. (a) A person commits an offense if the person:

(1) operates on a municipal street or on a highway a motor vehicle or piece of equipment that does not have the inscription required by this chapter; or

(2) uses a motor vehicle that is exempt by rule under Section 721.003, and that use is not expressly specified by the rule.

(b) An offense under this section is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not less than $25 or more than $100.