Sen. Rodríguez and Rep. Clardy pass safe tire bill

Austin - State Sen. José Rodríguez (D-El Paso) and State Rep. Travis Clardy (R-Nacogdoches) passed Senate Bill 511, which addresses the issue of unsafe tires on Texas roadways. Texas Department of Transportation data indicates that from 2013 to 2017, there were nearly 19,000 crashes in Texas, including 385 with fatalities and 926 with serious injuries, where defective or slick tires were a contributing factor.

S.B. 511 provides for a civil penalty, not to exceed $500, if a business owner or employee installs an unsafe tire. The bill also provides definitions for what constitutes an unsafe tire based on the Texas Department of Public Safety's current standards.

"This is a common sense bill that will save lives by mitigating one of the biggest causes of serious car crashes – unsafe tires," said Sen. Rodríguez. "This bill provides another layer of protection for consumers, drivers, and law enforcement."

"Automotive safety has been a priority of mine during the last two legislative sessions. I am proud to have sponsored Senator Rodriguez's S.B. 511 that improves consumer protection and highway safety," said Rep. Clardy.

S.B. 511 is supported by tire manufacturers and recyclers, including the U.S. Tire Manufacturers Association (USTMA), The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co., Liberty Tire, and the Recycling Council of Texas.

"As we observe National Tire Safety Week, USTMA applauds the Texas legislature for taking this important step toward preventing high-risk used tires from jeopardizing the safety of motorists on Texas roads," said Anne Forristall Luke, USTMA president and CEO.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimates that there are nearly 11,000 tire-related accidents every year, which represents about nine percent of total motor vehicle accidents. These accidents include tire issues related to tread separations, blowouts, bald tires, and under-inflation and are
particularly prevalent in tires with tread depth less than 2/32nds of an inch, which are addressed by S.B. 511.

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José Rodríguez represents Texas Senate District 29, which includes the counties of El Paso, Hudspeth, Culberson, Jeff Davis, and Presidio. He represents both urban and rural constituencies, and more than 350 miles of the Texas-Mexico border. Senator Rodriguez currently serves as the Chairman of the Senate Democratic Caucus, and is a member of the Senate Committees on Agriculture (Vice Chair); Natural Resources and Economic Development; Transportation; and Water & Rural Affairs.

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