



HOUSE BILL 1363 TALKING POINTS

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In Houston, homeowner's associations / civic clubs may apply for the Prohibited Yard Parking Program. The Program is intended to protect neighborhood property values, prevent damage to the City of Houston's underground infrastructure, and to stop the degradation of the aesthetic appearance of single-family residential areas.

Vehicles that park in the yard once a Prohibited Yard Parking Area is approved, are subject to misdemeanor violations that are issued by the police department.

HB 1363 decriminalizes the violation and allows parking compliance officers to issue civil violations.

Parking Compliance Officers maintain a regular presence in neighborhoods while enforcing parking violations on the public right of way.

Although Parking in the Yard is a parking violation, it occurs on private property and is considered criminal and subject to a warrant for failure to address. Therefore, parking compliance officers cannot issue citations.

Decriminalizing Parking in Yard violations will allow parking compliance officers to issue the citation and allow police officers to be available for more serious crimes.

Q&A

Q. What problem are we addressing by passing this bill?

A. This bill allows municipalities to decriminalize parked in yard violations and allows parking compliance officers to enforce this city ordinance. Peace officers have higher priority issues to address and may not be available to resolve parked in yard violations. Parking Compliance officers are already patrolling the streets and enforcing parking regulations in neighborhoods.

Q. What problems are caused by parked in yard violations?

A. Neighborhoods are seeking to protect their property values and to stop the degradation of the aesthetic appearance of single-family residential areas. Enforcement also protects any City underground infrastructure. Allowing the issuance of civil violations, similar to other parking violations, will allow parking compliance officers to consistently enforce the ordinance and provide these protections to our constituents.

Q. Why should parking compliance officers issue this violation?

A. Allowing parking compliance officers the ability to enforce this ordinance will allow the police officers to be available to address more serious public safety concerns. Parking compliance officers are already enforcing parking violations in neighborhoods.