

## Uninsured Drivers Bill Is Approved

AUSTIN (AP)—The House Insurance Committee approved a bill Tuesday night that would require uninsured motorists to pay a \$60 fee to get their license plates.

The committee also approved a bill that would shift the burden of proof from a motorist to his insurance company on whether the other party to an accident had insurance.

Both measures now go to the House floor for debate.

Rep. Lynn Nabers, D-Brownwood, sponsor of the two bills, said subcommittee amendments provide for \$1 of the \$60 fee to go to the State Highway Department, \$2 to county assessors and not more than 25 per cent to the Department of Public Safety to enforce bill.

The rest would go to the Texas Education Agency for drivers' education programs.

The bill would provide an incentive for uninsured motorists to get insurance, Nabers said, since

they could obtain liability insurance for less than \$60.

Driving a car without having paid the fee and in the absence of liability insurance would be a misdemeanor subject to a \$50 to \$200 fine and suspension of drivers' license for 180 days.

A motion to postpone consideration of the bill until an attorney general's opinion could be obtained on its constitutionality failed by an 8-9 vote. The bill then was approved 11-7.

The bill shifting the burden of proof received a 15-3 vote after surviving a 9-9 ballot on a motion to table.

Nabers said a man who pays for uninsured motorist insurance ought to be able to collect from his own company without having to show by a preponderance of the evidence that the other driver was uninsured.

The close votes on motions to table the bills probably mean there will be a stiff debate on both on the House floor.

### Cavness Not Optimistic

## New State Tax Bill May Be Necessary

AUSTIN (AP)—The chairman of an interim study committee on revenue and taxation said Tuesday he is not "as optimistic as the governor, lieutenant governor and speaker that this House will meet necessary appropriations without a tax bill."

Rep. Don Cavness, D-Austin, presented brief report on the state's methods and problems of bringing in money and said the legislature should approach its tax picture "in a more sensible way."

Cavness said the report did not recommend any particular approach for tax revenues, but it did project possible income taxes, or an augmented sales tax.

A 1 per cent income tax with a \$1,000 deduction could raise \$588 million for the state in 1974-74, the study showed. A similar tax, at 10 per cent, could produce over \$5 billion.

A corporate tax of 1 per cent could produce \$34 million, the study said. At 2 per cent it would raise \$69 million, and at 10 per cent it would produce \$350 million.

The report recommends the creation of a permanent revenue and taxation staff, saying "we should have had this type of staffwork for many preceding years."

Cavness said a major finding in the study was that taxation methods in Texas are too haphazard.

"The pattern in the past has been to wait until late in the session to determine the actual amount of revenue that would be needed," he said.

"Then we just try to pass anything we can get enough votes for," he lamented.

The study also called for improving tax collection methods, particularly the sales tax. The report recommended bonds to insure sales tax payments and monthly reports by businesses.

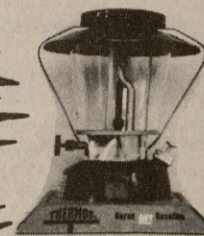
Cavness said the study did not take up ad valorem taxes because several other committees were already considering that problem.

It also said more effective revenue uses could be found in bond sales, federal grants, and revenues from school lands.

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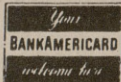
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