



# **BORRIS L. MILES**

## **STATE SENATOR DISTRICT 13**

COMMITTEES: Criminal Justice, Health & Human Services, Natural Resources & Economic Development, Nominations and Transportation

### **OFFICIAL STATEMENT** **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Senator Borris L. Miles Advances SB 190 – Bandit Signs Out of Committee**

Senator Borris L. Miles passed SB 190, to increase the civil penalties for bandit signs placed on the right of way of roads, out of the Texas Senate Committee on Transportation.

“Bandit Signs are those small signs we all see in medians and at intersections across our state, advertising everything from buying houses for cash to general home repairs,” said Senator Miles. “Not only do bandit signs produce blight, some are fraudulent and put our community at risk.”

Current statute allows a fine of \$500 to \$1,000. SB 190 puts a scaled penalty structure with the first offense being a \$1,000 fine, the second offense, a \$2,500 fine and the third offense and any subsequent violation, a \$5,000 fine.

“This bill increases the civil penalty for bandit signs on not only the person who physically places the sign, but also those who are advertising on them,” said Senator Miles. “This bill targets the big businesses running these illegal advertisements, not small businesses.”

The City of Houston more than \$280,000 a year cleaning up these signs. This is a big and costly problem for cities.

“SB 190 would strengthen the current law, raise the fines for offenses, with the goal of deterring repeat offenders who are able to pay the original penalty as a ‘cost of doing business,’” said Senator Miles.

SB 190 was voted out of the Senate Transportation Committee 8-0, with 1 absent and will now be eligible for a vote on the Senate Floor.

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