

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

Senate Research Center

S.B. 461  
By: Staples  
Infrastructure Development and Security  
8/18/2003  
Enrolled

### **DIGEST AND PURPOSE**

Currently, Texas law allows the operator of an emergency vehicle to function contrary to some traffic laws, including exceeding the speed limit; failing to stop at a red traffic signal; and standing or parking in a prohibited manner. Emergency vehicles can break these laws when responding to an emergency call for service; pursuing an actual or suspected violator of the law; or responding to a fire alarm, but not when directing traffic or functioning as a police escort. S.B. 461 expands the statute to allow emergency vehicles to break certain traffic laws while providing a police escort or directing or diverting traffic.

### **RULEMAKING AUTHORITY**

This bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

### **SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS**

SECTION 1. Amends Section 546.002, Transportation Code, as follows:

Sec. 546.002. WHEN CONDUCT PERMISSIBLE. (a) Defines "police escort."

(b) Creates Subsection (b) from existing text. Includes in the list of situations to which Section 546.001 applies, directing or diverting traffic for public safety purposes and conducting a police escort. Makes nonsubstantive changes.

SECTION 2. Effective date: upon passage or September 1, 2003.