

By: Brown of Brazos

H.B. No. 718

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to vehicles passing certain stationary emergency vehicles on a highway; providing a penalty.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subchapter D, Chapter 545, Transportation Code, is amended by adding Section 545.157 to read as follows:

Sec. 545.157. PASSING AUTHORIZED EMERGENCY VEHICLE. (a)

On approaching a stationary authorized emergency vehicle using visual signals that meet the requirements of Sections 547.305 and 547.702, an operator shall:

(1) if possible to do so safely under the traffic conditions, vacate the lane closest to the emergency vehicle when driving on a highway with two or more lanes traveling in the direction of the emergency vehicle; or

(2) reduce speed and maintain a safe speed for road conditions if vacating a lane would be impossible or unsafe.

(b) A violation of this section is a Class A misdemeanor if the violation results in bodily injury or property damage.

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2003.