

By: Barrientos, et al.

S.B. No. 193

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

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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:

(1) a misdemeanor punishable by fine under Section 542.401;

(2) a Class B misdemeanor if the violation results in property damage; or

(3) a Class A misdemeanor if the violation results in bodily injury.

(c) The penalties prescribed by Subsection (b) do not

1 preclude the filing of more severe charges for the conduct under any
2 other law.

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