

By: Wentworth

S.B. No. 1715

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to lighting equipment requirements for vehicles.

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

SECTION 1. Section 547.323, Transportation Code, is amended by amending Subsection (d) and adding Subsections (b-1) and (g) to read as follows:

(b-1) A passenger car manufactured or assembled after the model year 1986 and a multipurpose passenger vehicle, truck, or bus manufactured or assembled after the model year 1994 that has a gross vehicle weight rating of less than 10,000 pounds and is less than 80 inches wide shall be equipped with a centrally located, high-mounted stoplamp.

(d) A stoplamp shall emit a red or amber light, or a color between red and amber, that is:

(1) visible in normal sunlight at a distance of at least 300 feet from the rear of the vehicle; and

(2) displayed only on application of the vehicle service brake and is continuously displayed as long as ~~when~~ the vehicle service brake is applied.

(g) The observable illuminated area of a stoplamp may not be less than required under a rule adopted by the department or an applicable federal standard.

SECTION 2. Section 547.324, Transportation Code, is amended by adding Subsection (f) to read as follows:

1       (f) The observable illuminated area of a turn signal lamp  
2 may not be less than required under a rule adopted by the department  
3 or an applicable federal standard.

4       SECTION 3. Subchapter E, Chapter 547, Transportation Code,  
5 is amended by adding Section 547.336 to read as follows:

6       Sec. 547.336. PROHIBITION OF DECORATIVE AND ANCILLARY  
7 LIGHTING. (a) A person may not operate or move a vehicle  
8 displaying a lamp, reflective device, or other lighting equipment  
9 that is not required or permitted by this subtitle or an applicable  
10 federal standard at the time the vehicle was manufactured or  
11 assembled.

12       (b) It is an affirmative defense to prosecution under this  
13 section that the lamp, reflective device, or other lighting  
14 equipment prohibited by Subsection (a) was not emitting light  
15 visible on the exterior of the vehicle while the person operated or  
16 moved the vehicle on a public highway.

17       (c) This section does not apply to:

18               (1) a taxicab or other mass transit vehicle equipped  
19 as authorized by a municipal authority; or

20               (2) a vehicle participating in a parade.

21       SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2003.

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COMMITTEE AMENDMENT NO. 1

Amend SB 1715 by Wentworth to read as follows:

(1) On page 2, line 4, strike Section 3. Subchapter E, Chapter 547, Transportation Code.

Phillips