

1-1 By: Wentworth S.B. No. 1715  
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed March 14, 2003; March 20, 2003, read  
1-3 first time and referred to Committee on Infrastructure Development  
1-4 and Security; April 16, 2003, reported adversely, with favorable  
1-5 Committee Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 9, Nays 0;  
1-6 April 16, 2003, sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 1715 By: Wentworth

1-8 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
1-9 AN ACT

1-10 relating to lighting equipment requirements for vehicles.

1-11 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-12 SECTION 1. Section 547.323, Transportation Code, is amended  
1-13 by amending Subsection (d) and adding Subsections (b-1) and (g) to  
1-14 read as follows:

1-15 (b-1) A passenger car manufactured or assembled after the  
1-16 model year 1986 and a multipurpose passenger vehicle, truck, or bus  
1-17 manufactured or assembled after the model year 1994 that has a gross  
1-18 vehicle weight rating of less than 10,000 pounds and is less than 80  
1-19 inches wide shall be equipped with a centrally located,  
1-20 high-mounted stoplamp.

1-21 (d) A stoplamp shall emit a red or amber light, or a color  
1-22 between red and amber, that is:

1-23 (1) visible in normal sunlight at a distance of at  
1-24 least 300 feet from the rear of the vehicle; and

1-25 (2) displayed only on application of the vehicle  
1-26 service brake and is continuously displayed as long as [when] the  
1-27 vehicle service brake is applied.

1-28 (g) The observable illuminated area of a stoplamp may not be  
1-29 less than required under a rule adopted by the department or an  
1-30 applicable federal standard.

1-31 SECTION 2. Section 547.324, Transportation Code, is amended  
1-32 by adding Subsection (f) to read as follows:

1-33 (f) The observable illuminated area of a turn signal lamp  
1-34 may not be less than required under a rule adopted by the department  
1-35 or an applicable federal standard.

1-36 SECTION 3. Subchapter E, Chapter 547, Transportation Code,  
1-37 is amended by adding Section 547.336 to read as follows:

1-38 Sec. 547.336. PROHIBITION OF DECORATIVE AND ANCILLARY  
1-39 LIGHTING. (a) A person may not operate or move a vehicle  
1-40 displaying a lamp, reflective device, or other lighting equipment  
1-41 that is not required or permitted by this subtitle or an applicable  
1-42 federal standard at the time the vehicle was manufactured or  
1-43 assembled.

1-44 (b) It is an affirmative defense to prosecution under this  
1-45 section that the lamp, reflective device, or other lighting  
1-46 equipment prohibited by Subsection (a) was not emitting light  
1-47 visible on the exterior of the vehicle while the person operated or  
1-48 moved the vehicle on a public highway.

1-49 (c) This section does not apply to:

1-50 (1) a taxicab or other mass transit vehicle equipped  
1-51 as authorized by a municipal authority; or

1-52 (2) a vehicle participating in a parade.

1-53 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2003.

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