

By: Alonzo

H.B. No. 1551

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to equipping each K-9 law enforcement vehicle with a heat alarm system.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 821, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Section 821.005 to read as follows:

Sec. 821.005. HEAT ALARM SYSTEM IN K-9 LAW ENFORCEMENT VEHICLES. (a) In this section, "law enforcement agency" means:

(1) the Department of Public Safety;

(2) the sheriff's department of a county; or

(3) the police department of a municipality.

(b) A law enforcement agency shall equip each vehicle used in a K-9 law enforcement program with a heat alarm system that is activated when the temperature in the vehicle's interior becomes dangerous to a police dog in the vehicle. The system when activated must:

(1) activate an audible alarm; and

(2) automatically start the vehicle and the vehicle's air conditioning system.

SECTION 2. A law enforcement agency required to equip a vehicle with a heat alarm system as required by Section 821.005, Health and Safety Code, as added by this Act, is not required to comply with that section before January 1, 2006.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2005.