

By: Berman

H.B. No. 489

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the duty of a passenger involved in certain accidents to render aid; providing a criminal penalty.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 550, Transportation Code, is amended by adding Section 550.027 to read as follows:

Sec. 550.027. PASSENGER'S DUTY TO RENDER AID. (a) The passenger of a vehicle involved in an accident commits an offense if:

(1) a reasonable person would believe that bodily injury or death may have resulted from the accident;

(2) the passenger fails to provide any person injured in the accident reasonable assistance, including transporting or making arrangements for transporting the person to a physician or hospital for medical treatment if it is apparent that treatment is necessary, or if the injured person requests the transportation; and

(3) the passenger could assist the person without placing the passenger in danger of suffering serious bodily injury or death.

(b) An offense under this section is punishable by:

(1) imprisonment in the institutional division of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice for not more than five years or confinement in the county jail for not more than one year;

- 1 (2) a fine not to exceed \$5,000; or
- 2 (3) both the fine and the imprisonment or confinement.

3 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2007.