

By: Parker

H.B. No. 3181

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24

AN ACT

relating to the offense of obstructing emergency vehicles at  
railroad crossings.

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

SECTION 1. Sections 471.007(a) and (b), Transportation  
Code, are amended to read as follows:

(a) A railway company commits an offense if:

(1) a train of the railway company obstructs for more  
than 10 minutes a street, railroad crossing, or public highway; and

(2) as a result, an authorized emergency vehicle, as  
defined by Section 541.201, is prevented from responding to an  
emergency.

(b) An offense under this section is a misdemeanor  
punishable by a fine of not less than \$500 [~~\$100~~] or more than  
\$1,000 [~~\$300~~].

SECTION 2. (a) The change in law made by this Act applies  
only to an offense committed on or after the effective date of this  
Act. For purposes of this section, an offense is committed before  
the effective date of this Act if any element of the offense occurs  
before that date.

(b) An offense committed before the effective date of this  
Act is covered by the law in effect when the offense was committed,  
and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

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