

By: Alonzo

H.B. No. 243

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to equipping certain K-9 law enforcement vehicles with heat alarm systems.

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 may equip each vehicle used in a K-9 law enforcement program with a heat alarm system that is activated when the vehicle stops running or 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;

(2) automatically lower the vehicle's rear windows;

and

(3) page the K-9 law enforcement officer.

(c) This section does not apply to an open-air vehicle used in connection with a K-9 law enforcement program.

SECTION 2. A vehicle used in a K-9 law enforcement program equipped with a heat alarm system on the effective date of this Act

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1 is not required to meet the standards under Section 821.005, Health
2 and Safety Code, as added by this Act, before January 1, 2011.

3 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.