

By: Alonzo

H.B. No. 243

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 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) A law enforcement agency that implements a K-9 law enforcement program must comply with this section not later than one year after the date the program begins operation.

(d) This section does not apply to an open-air vehicle used

1 in connection with a K-9 law enforcement program.

2 SECTION 2. A law enforcement agency required to equip a  
3 vehicle with a heat alarm system as required by Section 821.005,  
4 Health and Safety Code, as added by this Act, is not required to  
5 comply with that section before January 1, 2011.

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