

AN ACT

relating to the operation on a highway or street of a motor vehicle that is drawing a boat or personal watercraft in or on which a child is riding; providing a penalty.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter I, Chapter 545, Transportation Code, is amended by adding Section 545.4145 to read as follows:

Sec. 545.4145. RIDING IN OR ON BOAT OR PERSONAL WATERCRAFT DRAWN BY VEHICLE; OFFENSE. (a) A person commits an offense if the person operates a motor vehicle on a highway or street when a child younger than 18 years of age is occupying a boat or personal watercraft being drawn by the motor vehicle.

(b) It is a defense to prosecution under this section that the person was:

(1) operating the motor vehicle in a parade or in an emergency; or

(2) operating the motor vehicle on a beach.

(c) In this section, "boat" and "personal watercraft" have the meanings assigned by Section 31.003, Parks and Wildlife Code.

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2011.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 2981 was passed by the House on May 3, 2011, by the following vote: Yeas 143, Nays 1, 1 present, not voting; and that the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 2981 on May 27, 2011, by the following vote: Yeas 140, Nays 1, 2 present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 2981 was passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 25, 2011, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor