

1-1 By: Hunter (Senate Sponsor - Hegar) H.B. No. 2981
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 4, 2011;
1-3 May 5, 2011, read first time and referred to Committee on
1-4 Transportation and Homeland Security; May 20, 2011, reported
1-5 adversely, with favorable Committee Substitute by the following
1-6 vote: Yeas 9, Nays 0; May 20, 2011, sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR H.B. No. 2981 By: Hinojosa

1-8 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-9 AN ACT

1-10 relating to the operation on a highway or street of a motor vehicle
1-11 that is drawing a boat or personal watercraft in or on which a child
1-12 is riding; providing a penalty.

1-13 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-14 SECTION 1. Subchapter I, Chapter 545, Transportation Code,
1-15 is amended by adding Section 545.4145 to read as follows:

1-16 Sec. 545.4145. RIDING IN OR ON BOAT OR PERSONAL WATERCRAFT
1-17 DRAWN BY VEHICLE; OFFENSE. (a) A person commits an offense if the
1-18 person operates a motor vehicle on a highway or street when a child
1-19 younger than 18 years of age is occupying a boat or personal
1-20 watercraft being drawn by the motor vehicle.

1-21 (b) It is a defense to prosecution under this section that
1-22 the person was:

1-23 (1) operating the motor vehicle in a parade or in an
1-24 emergency; or

1-25 (2) operating the motor vehicle on a beach.

1-26 (c) In this section, "boat" and "personal watercraft" have
1-27 the meanings assigned by Section 31.003, Parks and Wildlife Code.

1-28 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2011.

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