

By: Cortez

H.B. No. 1591

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to designation of certain vehicles of the Texas Division of Emergency Management as authorized emergency vehicles.

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

SECTION 1. Section 541.201(1), Transportation Code, is amended to read as follows:

(1) "Authorized emergency vehicle" means:

(A) a fire department or police vehicle;

(B) a public or private ambulance operated by a person who has been issued a license by the ~~[Texas]~~ Department of State Health Services;

(C) a municipal department or public service corporation emergency vehicle that has been designated or authorized by the governing body of a municipality;

(D) a vehicle that has been designated by the department under Section 546.0065;

(E) a private vehicle of a volunteer firefighter or a certified emergency medical services employee or volunteer when responding to a fire alarm or medical emergency;

(F) ~~[(E)]~~ an industrial emergency response vehicle, including an industrial ambulance, when responding to an emergency, but only if the vehicle is operated in compliance with criteria in effect September 1, 1989, and established by the predecessor of the Texas Industrial Emergency Services Board of the

1 State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas;

2 (G) [~~(F)~~] a vehicle of a blood bank or tissue
3 bank, accredited or approved under the laws of this state or the
4 United States, when making emergency deliveries of blood, drugs,
5 medicines, or organs; or

6 (H) [~~(G)~~] a vehicle used for law enforcement
7 purposes that is owned or leased by a federal governmental entity.

8 SECTION 2. Subchapter A, Chapter 546, Transportation Code,
9 is amended by adding Section 546.0065 to read as follows:

10 Sec. 546.0065. AUTHORIZED EMERGENCY VEHICLES OF THE TEXAS
11 DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT. The department shall designate
12 vehicles of the Texas Division of Emergency Management that may be
13 operated as authorized emergency vehicles.

14 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
15 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
16 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
17 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
18 Act takes effect September 1, 2013.