

By: Lavender

H.B. No. 1654

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to designation of certain vehicles of the Texas Division
3 of Emergency Management as authorized emergency vehicles.

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

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

7 (1) "Authorized emergency vehicle" means:

8 (A) a fire department or police vehicle;

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

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

15 (D) a vehicle that has been designated by the
16 director under Section 546.0065;

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

20 (F) [~~(E)~~] an industrial emergency response
21 vehicle, including an industrial ambulance, when responding to an
22 emergency, but only if the vehicle is operated in compliance with
23 criteria in effect September 1, 1989, and established by the
24 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 director may designate
12 vehicles of the Texas Division of Emergency Management that may be
13 operated as authorized emergency vehicles. A vehicle designated
14 under this section must contain an emblem or marking on the exterior
15 that clearly identifies the vehicle as a vehicle of the Texas
16 Division of Emergency Management.

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