

By: Goldman

H.B. No. 2722

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT  
2 relating to prohibition of certain motor vehicles resembling  
3 emergency medical services vehicles; creating a criminal offense.

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

5 SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 773, Health and Safety  
6 Code, is amended by adding Section 773.017 to read as follows:

7 Sec. 773.017. USE OF CERTAIN EXTERNAL MOTOR VEHICLE  
8 MARKINGS OR FEATURES PROHIBITED; CRIMINAL OFFENSE. (a) A person  
9 may not operate a motor vehicle in this state that resembles an  
10 emergency medical services vehicle unless the person uses the motor  
11 vehicle as an emergency medical services vehicle under this chapter  
12 or the person uses the motor vehicle for other legitimate  
13 governmental functions, including police or fire services.

14 (b) A motor vehicle resembles an emergency medical services  
15 vehicle if the motor vehicle has on the exterior of the motor  
16 vehicle any of the following markings or features:

- 17 (1) the word "ambulance" or a derivation of that word;  
18 (2) a star of life as trademarked by the National  
19 Highway Traffic Safety Administration;  
20 (3) a Maltese cross commonly used by fire departments;  
21 (4) forward-facing flashing red, white, or blue  
22 lights;  
23 (5) a siren;  
24 (6) the words "critical care transport," "emergency,"

1 "emergency medical services," or "mobile intensive care unit"; or

2 (7) the acronym "EMS" or "MICU".

3 (c) A person commits an offense if the person violates this

4 section. An offense under this subsection is a Class C misdemeanor.

5 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.