

By: Zaffirini

S.B. No. 47

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a study concerning enforcement of following distance laws in this state.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 411, Government Code, is amended by adding Subchapter Z to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER Z. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Sec. 411.951. STUDY AND REPORT ON FOLLOWING DISTANCE ENFORCEMENT. (a) The department shall conduct a study of the incidence of, and costs associated with, drivers' failure to maintain safe following distance as required by Section 545.062, Transportation Code. At a minimum, the study must:

(1) determine whether current enforcement methods adequately deter violations of Section 545.062, Transportation Code; and

(2) make recommendations concerning ways to enhance enforcement methods, if the department determines that current enforcement methods are inadequate.

(b) In conducting the study described by Subsection (a), the department may consider the use of technologies such as laser, radar, or other electronic or mechanical devices that would enable peace officers to measure the distance between two or more motor vehicles in motion.

(c) Not later than January 15, 2017, the department shall

1 submit a report on the results of the study conducted under this
2 section to the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of
3 representatives, and the presiding officer of each standing
4 committee of the legislature with jurisdiction over transportation
5 matters. The report must:

6 (1) describe the impact that the recommendations made
7 under Subsection (a)(2), if any, have, or are predicted to have, on
8 the incidence of unsafe following distance in this state; and

9 (2) include recommendations for proposed legislation
10 appropriate to regulate or mitigate the use of the technologies
11 described by Subsection (b), if the recommendations made under
12 Subsection (a)(2) include the use of technologies described by
13 Subsection (b).

14 (d) This section expires August 31, 2017.

15 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
16 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
17 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
18 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
19 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.