

AN ACT

relating to a prohibition of certain motor vehicles resembling emergency medical services vehicles; creating a criminal offense.

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

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

Sec. 773.017. USE OF CERTAIN EXTERNAL MOTOR VEHICLE MARKINGS OR FEATURES PROHIBITED; CRIMINAL OFFENSE. (a) A person may not operate a motor vehicle in this state that resembles an emergency medical services vehicle unless the person uses the motor vehicle:

(1) as an emergency medical services vehicle under this chapter; or

(2) for other legitimate governmental functions, including police or firefighting services.

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

(1) the word "ambulance" or a derivation of that word;

(2) a star of life as trademarked by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration;

(3) a Maltese cross commonly used by fire departments;

(4) forward-facing flashing red, white, or blue lights;

1 (5) a siren;

2 (6) the words "critical care transport," "emergency,"
3 "emergency medical services," or "mobile intensive care unit"; or

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

5 (c) A person commits an offense if the person violates this
6 section. An offense under this subsection is a Class C misdemeanor.

7 (d) This section does not apply to a motor vehicle bearing a
8 license plate issued or approved under Section [504.501](#) or [504.502](#),
9 Transportation Code.

10 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 1249 was passed by the House on May 6, 2017, by the following vote: Yeas 139, Nays 5, 2 present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 1249 was passed by the Senate on May 19, 2017, by the following vote: Yeas 29, Nays 2.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor