

By: Metcalf

H.B. No. 1816

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the operation of medical supply transport vehicles during a declared state of disaster.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 546, Transportation Code, is amended by adding Subchapter C to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER C. OPERATION OF MEDICAL SUPPLY TRANSPORT VEHICLES

Sec. 546.051. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

(1) "Emergency care facility" means a health care facility, including a freestanding emergency medical care facility, hospital, temporary emergency clinic, and trauma facility, that provides emergency medical care.

(2) "Freestanding emergency medical care facility" means a facility licensed under Chapter 254, Health and Safety Code.

(3) "Medical supply distributor" means a person authorized to transport prescription drugs and other medical supplies to emergency care facilities or pharmacies.

(4) "Pharmacy" has the meaning assigned by Section 551.003, Occupations Code.

(5) "Trauma facility" has the meaning assigned by Section 773.003, Health and Safety Code.

Sec. 546.052. MEDICAL SUPPLY TRANSPORT VEHICLES DURING DECLARED DISASTER. (a) A vehicle used by a medical supply

1 distributor to transport prescription drugs and other medical  
2 supplies to an emergency care facility or pharmacy located in an  
3 area declared a disaster area by the governor under Chapter 418,  
4 Government Code, may have access to highways, streets, and bridges  
5 as if the transport vehicle were an emergency vehicle if:

6 (1) law enforcement officials in the disaster area can  
7 provide adequate security to protect the prescription drugs and  
8 other medical supplies from theft;

9 (2) the weight of the transport vehicle will not  
10 jeopardize the structural integrity of any highway, street, or  
11 bridge located in the disaster area; and

12 (3) the transport vehicle will not negatively impact  
13 evacuation activities or any response or recovery activities in the  
14 disaster area.

15 (b) The Texas Division of Emergency Management shall:

16 (1) establish procedures to assist medical supply  
17 distributors in accessing highways, streets, and bridges as  
18 authorized by Subsection (a); and

19 (2) provide medical supply distributors with  
20 documentation specifying the distributors' access to highways,  
21 streets, and bridges as authorized by Subsection (a).

22 SECTION 2. Not later than September 1, 2018, the Texas  
23 Division of Emergency Management shall establish the procedures  
24 required by Section 546.052(b), Transportation Code, as added by  
25 this Act.

26 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.