**BILL ANALYSIS**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Senate Research Center | H.B. 61 |
| 86R1765 AAF-D | By: White (Nichols) |
|  | Transportation |
|  | 4/8/2019 |
|  | Engrossed |

**AUTHOR'S / SPONSOR'S STATEMENT OF INTENT**

In 2017, the legislature believed that motorists needed to be able to differentiate between law enforcement vehicles and vehicles used by private security entities (if lit by a lamp or other illuminating device) and passed H.B. 2812. H.B. 2812 restricted the lights with which a security patrol vehicle is authorized to be equipped to green, amber, or white lights. H.B. 61 does something similar: it permits the use of flashing blue and amber lights on escort flag vehicles. H.B. 61 also defines an escort flag vehicle as a vehicle that precedes or follows an oversized or overweight vehicle.

H.B. 61 amends current law relating to the use of certain lighting equipment on escort flag vehicles.

**RULEMAKING AUTHORITY**

This bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

**SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS**

SECTION 1. Amends Section 547.305, Transportation Code, by adding Subsection (e-3) and amending Subsection (f), as follows:

(e-3) Authorizes an escort flag vehicle to be equipped with alternating or flashing blue and amber lights.

(f) Defines "escort flag vehicle" as a vehicle that precedes or follows an oversize or overweight vehicle described by Subtitle E (Vehicle Size and Weight) for the purpose of facilitating the safe movement of the oversize or overweight vehicle over roads. Makes nonsubstantive changes to this subsection.

SECTION 2. Effective date: September 1, 2019.