

By: Minjarez

H.B. No. 119

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to liability for and reporting of accidents involving certain motor vehicles.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter J, Chapter 545, Transportation Code, is amended by adding Section 545.457 to read as follows:

Sec. 545.457. LIABILITY OF MANUFACTURER OF MODIFIED AUTOMATED MOTOR VEHICLE. (a) The manufacturer of an automated motor vehicle is not liable for damage that arises from an accident involving the vehicle if a person other than the manufacturer modified or attempted to modify the vehicle without the manufacturer's consent and:

(1) the modification or attempted modification of the vehicle was the direct cause of the accident; or

(2) the modification or attempted modification of the vehicle interfered with the normal operation of the vehicle.

(b) Subsection (a) does not apply if the damage that arises from an accident involving an automated motor vehicle is caused by a defect that was present at the time of the vehicle's manufacture or first sale.

SECTION 2. Section 550.064(b), Transportation Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b) An accident report form prepared by the department must:

(1) require sufficiently detailed information to

1 disclose the cause and conditions of and the persons and vehicles  
2 involved in an accident if the form is for the report to be made by a  
3 person investigating the accident;

4 (2) include a way to designate and identify a peace  
5 officer, firefighter, or emergency medical services employee who is  
6 involved in an accident while driving a law enforcement vehicle,  
7 fire department vehicle, or emergency medical services vehicle  
8 while performing the person's duties;

9 (3) require a statement by a person described by  
10 Subdivision (2) as to the nature of the accident; ~~and~~

11 (4) include a way to designate whether an individual  
12 involved in an accident wants to be contacted by a person seeking to  
13 obtain employment as a professional described by Section 38.01(12),  
14 Penal Code;

15 (5) include a way to indicate whether:

16 (A) an automated motor vehicle as defined by  
17 Section 545.451 was at fault or otherwise involved in the accident;  
18 and

19 (B) the owner of an automated motor vehicle  
20 involved in the accident was contacted; and

21 (6) include a way to indicate whether an oversize or  
22 overweight vehicle described by Subtitle E was at fault or  
23 otherwise involved in the accident.

24 SECTION 3. Section 545.457, Transportation Code, as added  
25 by this Act, applies only to a cause of action that accrues on or  
26 after the effective date of this Act.

27 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.