

By: Watson

S.B. No. 1135

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the operation of public transit vehicles equipped with connected braking systems.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 545, Transportation Code, is amended by adding Section 545.0621 to read as follows:

Sec. 545.0621. FOLLOWING DISTANCE FOR CERTAIN PUBLIC TRANSIT VEHICLES. (a) In this section:

(1) "Automated motor vehicle" has the meaning assigned by Section 545.451.

(2) "Connected braking system" has the meaning assigned by Section 545.062(d).

(3) "Public transit vehicle" means a bus or other vehicle, including an automated motor vehicle, used to provide transit services to the public by:

(A) a political subdivision of this state; or

(B) a private entity operating under a contract with a political subdivision of this state.

(b) Sections 545.062(b), (c), and (d) do not apply to an operator of a public transit vehicle that is following one or more other public transit vehicles if:

(1) the vehicles are equipped with a connected braking system; and

(2) the speed of each vehicle is automatically

1 coordinated through the connected braking system.

2 SECTION 2. Subchapter J, Chapter 545, Transportation Code,  
3 is amended by adding Section 545.457 to read as follows:

4 Sec. 545.457. FOLLOWING DISTANCE FOR CERTAIN AUTOMATED  
5 MOTOR VEHICLES. (a) In this section:

6 (1) "Connected braking system" has the meaning  
7 assigned by Section 545.062(d).

8 (2) "Public transit vehicle" has the meaning assigned  
9 by Section 545.0621.

10 (b) This section applies only to an automated motor vehicle  
11 that is a public transit vehicle.

12 (c) Notwithstanding Section 545.062, an automated motor  
13 vehicle equipped with a connected braking system that is following  
14 another automated motor vehicle equipped with that system may be  
15 assisted by the system to maintain any desired distance between the  
16 vehicles.

17 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.