

By: Lopez

H.B. No. 555

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to highway maintenance or construction vehicles and certain service vehicles.

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

SECTION 1. Section 545.157(a), Transportation Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) This section applies only to the following vehicles:

(1) a stationary authorized emergency vehicle using visual signals that meet the requirements of Sections 547.305 and 547.702;

(2) a stationary tow truck using equipment authorized by Section 547.305(d); ~~and~~

(3) a Texas Department of Transportation vehicle or a highway maintenance or construction vehicle operated pursuant to a contract awarded under Subchapter A, Chapter 223, not separated from the roadway by a traffic control channelizing device and using visual signals that comply with the standards and specifications adopted under Section 547.105;

(4) a service vehicle used by or for a utility, as defined by Section 203.091, and using visual signals that comply with the standards and specifications adopted under Section 547.105; and

(5) a stationary vehicle used exclusively to transport municipal solid waste, as defined by Section 361.003, Health and

1 Safety Code, or recyclable material, as defined by Section 361.421,  
2 Health and Safety Code, while being operated in connection with the  
3 removal or transportation of municipal solid waste or recyclable  
4 material from a location adjacent to the highway.

5 SECTION 2. Section 547.001(2-b), Transportation Code, is  
6 amended to read as follows:

7 (2-b) "Highway maintenance or construction vehicle"  
8 means a highway or traffic maintenance or construction vehicle  
9 designated by the Texas Department of Transportation. The term  
10 includes equipment for:

11 (A) road maintenance or construction, including:

12 (i) equipment for snow removal, line  
13 striping, skid resistance testing, sweeping, ~~and~~ spraying,  
14 guardrail repair, sign maintenance, and temporary traffic-control  
15 device placement or removal;

16 (ii) aerial platform lift machines; and

17 (iii) road profiler machines; and

18 (B) road construction or off-road use, including  
19 motor graders, road rollers, excavators, pneumatic tire equipment,  
20 movers, and tractors.

21 SECTION 3. The heading to Section 547.105, Transportation  
22 Code, is amended to read as follows:

23 Sec. 547.105. [~~MAINTENANCE AND SERVICE VEHICLE~~] LIGHTING  
24 STANDARDS FOR CERTAIN VEHICLES.

25 SECTION 4. Sections 547.105(a) and (b), Transportation  
26 Code, are amended to read as follows:

27 (a) The Texas Department of Transportation shall adopt

1 standards and specifications that:

2 (1) apply to lamps on highway maintenance or  
3 construction vehicles and service vehicles; and

4 (2) correlate with and conform as closely as possible  
5 to standards and specifications approved by the American  
6 Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials.

7 (b) The Texas Department of Transportation may adopt  
8 standards and specifications for lighting that permit the use of  
9 flashing lights for identification purposes on highway maintenance  
10 or construction vehicles and service vehicles.

11 SECTION 5. Section 547.305(e), Transportation Code, is  
12 amended to read as follows:

13 (e) A person may not operate a highway maintenance or  
14 construction vehicle or service vehicle that is not equipped with  
15 lamps or that does not display lighted lamps as required by the  
16 standards and specifications adopted by the Texas Department of  
17 Transportation.

18 SECTION 6. As soon as practicable after the effective date  
19 of this Act, the Texas Department of Transportation shall adopt  
20 standards and specifications relating to lamps and lighting on  
21 highway construction vehicles, as required by Section 547.105,  
22 Transportation Code, as amended by this Act.

23 SECTION 7. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.