

SUBJECT: Changing regulations for certain slow-moving, heavy, or other vehicles

COMMITTEE: Transportation — committee substitute recommended

VOTE: 10 ayes — Canales, Landgraf, Bernal, Y. Davis, Hefner, Krause, Leman, Martinez, Ortega, E. Thompson

0 nays

3 absent — Goldman, Raney, Thierry

WITNESSES: For — Dana Moore, Texas Trucking Association; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Peyton Schumann, Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association; Michael Pacheco, Texas Farm Bureau; Mark Borskey, Texas Recreational Vehicle Association)

Against — None

On — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Justin Chrane, Texas Department of Public Safety)

BACKGROUND: Some have raised concerns about the applicability and practicality of Transportation Code requirements for some vehicles, such as covered farm vehicles, slow-moving vehicles, and certain heavy trailers.

DIGEST: CSHB 2837 would make several changes to sections of the Transportation Code addressing slow-moving vehicles, covered farm vehicles, heavy trailers, and certain other kinds of vehicles.

The bill would exempt vehicles that were operated intrastate and were not driven for compensation or in the furtherance of a commercial enterprise from state regulation on commercial driver's licenses. Covered farm vehicles, as defined in federal statute, also would be exempt.

Under the bill, slow-moving vehicles designed to operate at a maximum speed of 25 miles per hour, including horse-drawn vehicles, would be

exempt from limitations on driving on an improved shoulder.

Motorists would be required to yield when being passed by an authorized emergency vehicle using only an audible or visual signal. The bill would remove certain limits on when and where operators could park or stand when operating authorized emergency vehicles.

The bill would raise the weight limit at which a trailer would have to be equipped with emergency brakes on all required wheels from 3,000 to 4,500 pounds.

The bill would repeal the offense for using, purchasing, possessing, manufacturing, selling, or distributing a license plate flipper.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2019, and apply only to an offense committed on or after the bill's effective date.