

SUBJECT: Requiring drivers to stop and yield the right-of-way to a pedestrian

COMMITTEE: Transportation — committee substitute recommended

VOTE: 12 ayes — Canales, E. Thompson, Ashby, Bucy, Davis, Harris, Lozano, Martinez, Ortega, Perez, Rogers, Smithee

0 nays

1 absent — Landgraf

WITNESSES: For — Shana Merlin, Cpfss; Jay Crossley, Farm&City; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Brie Franco, City of Austin; Jamaal Smith, City of Houston; Christine Wright, City of San Antonio; Chase Bearden and Dennis Borel, Coalition of Texans with Disabilities; Tom Maddox, Sheriffs Association of Texas; Mackenna Wehmeyer, TAG Houston; Kenneth Flippin, Vision Zero Texas; Adam Greenfield, Walk Austin; Susana Carranza; Idona Griffith; Lance Hamm; Georgia Keysor; Vanessa MacDougal)

Against — Terri Hall, Texas TURF, Texans for Toll-free Highways

On — Robert Wunderlich, Texas A&M Transportation Institute

BACKGROUND: Transportation Code secs. 544.007, 552.002, 552.003, and 552.006 require an operator of a vehicle to yield the right-of-way to pedestrians in various circumstances, such as when the pedestrian is lawfully in an intersection or crosswalk.

Concerns have been raised by the continuing rise in pedestrian deaths in Texas and some have suggested explicitly requiring drivers to stop and yield the right-of-way to a pedestrian crossing the street.

DIGEST: CSHB 443 would require the operator of a vehicle to stop and yield the right-of-way to a pedestrian in certain circumstances in which current law requires the operator to yield.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2021, and apply only to an offense committed on or after that date.