

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
78R10372 DWS-D

H.B. 2096
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Infrastructure Development and Security
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Engrossed

DIGEST AND PURPOSE

On July 26, 2002, in Dallas, authorities discovered a tractor-trailer that had been used to transport illegal immigrants into the United States. Two Mexican nationals died and at least three dozen more were hospitalized for heat exhaustion after they were trapped in the trailer for nine hours. Less than a week later, a similar incident occurred in San Antonio, where police found approximately 30 dehydrated men, women, and children in a tractor-trailer. Currently, Texas law does not prohibit operating a tractor-trailer while knowingly transporting persons inside the trailer. H.B. 2096 prohibits a person from operating a truck or tractor when another person occupies the trailer being drawn by the truck or tractor. This bill excludes towable recreational vehicles and circumstances deemed an emergency.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

This bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Subchapter I, Chapter 545, Transportation Code, by adding Section 545.4191, as follows:

Sec. 545.4191. PERSON RIDING IN TRAILER OR SEMITRAILER DRAWN BY TRUCK, ROAD TRACTOR, OR TRUCK TRACTOR. (a) Prohibiting a person from operating a truck, road tractor, or truck tractor when another person occupies a trailer or semitrailer being drawn by the truck, road tractor, or truck tractor.

(b) Sets forth defenses to prosecution under this section.

SECTION 2. Effective date: September 1, 2003.