

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
78R3123 MTB-F

S.B. 193
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Infrastructure Development & Security
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DIGEST AND PURPOSE

Currently, under Texas law there are no guidelines or penalties relating to vehicles passing certain stationary emergency vehicles on a highway. As proposed, S.B. 193 would require that vehicles attempt to move if possible or reduce and maintain a safe speed while passing an emergency vehicle. This bill provides that a violation resulting in bodily injury or property damage is a Class A misdemeanor.

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 Chapter 545D, Transportation Code, by adding Section 545.157, as follows:

Sec. 545.157. PASSING AUTHORIZED EMERGENCY VEHICLE. (a) Requires an operator approaching a stationary authorized emergency vehicle using its flashing lights, on a two-lane or wider highway, to safely change lanes away from the vehicle or to reduce his or her speed accordingly if unable to change lanes.

(b) Establishes a violation of this section resulting in bodily injury or property damage as a Class A misdemeanor.

SECTION 2. Effective date: September 1, 2003.