

By: McClendon

H.B. No. 383

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to unprotected road users; providing penalties; creating
3 an offense.

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

5 SECTION 1. Subchapter I, Chapter 545, Transportation Code,
6 is amended by adding Section 545.428 to read as follows:

7 Sec. 545.428. UNPROTECTED ROAD USERS. (a) In this section,
8 "unprotected road user" means:

9 (1) a pedestrian, including a runner, physically
10 disabled person, highway construction and maintenance worker, tow
11 truck operator, utility worker, other worker operating legally in
12 or near the road or right-of-way, or stranded motorist or
13 passenger;

14 (2) a person on horseback;

15 (3) a person operating equipment other than a motor
16 vehicle, including a bicycle, handcycle, horse-driven conveyance,
17 farm tractor, implement of husbandry, or self-propelled unit of
18 farm equipment; or

19 (4) a person operating a motorcycle, moped,
20 motor-driven cycle, or motor-assisted scooter.

21 (b) An operator of a motor vehicle passing an unprotected
22 road user operating on a highway or street shall:

23 (1) vacate the lane in which the unprotected road user
24 is located if the highway has two or more marked lanes running in

1 the same direction; or

2 (2) pass the unprotected road user at a safe distance.

3 (c) For the purposes of Subsection (b)(2), when road
4 conditions allow, safe distance is at least:

5 (1) three feet if the operator's vehicle is a passenger
6 car or light truck; or

7 (2) six feet if the operator's vehicle is a truck,
8 other than a light truck, that is a commercial motor vehicle as
9 defined by Section 522.003.

10 (d) An operator of a motor vehicle that is making a turn at
11 an intersection, including an intersection with an alley or private
12 road or driveway, shall yield the right-of-way to an unprotected
13 road user who is in the intersection or in such proximity to the
14 intersection as to be an immediate hazard.

15 (e) An operator of a motor vehicle may not overtake an
16 unprotected road user and subsequently turn in front of the
17 unprotected road user unless the operator is safely clear of the
18 unprotected road user, taking into account the speed at which the
19 unprotected road user is traveling and the braking requirements of
20 the turning vehicle.

21 (f) An operator of a motor vehicle may not maneuver the
22 vehicle in a manner that:

23 (1) is intended to cause intimidation or harassment to
24 an unprotected road user; or

25 (2) threatens an unprotected road user.

26 (g) An operator of a motor vehicle shall exercise due care
27 to avoid colliding with any unprotected road user on a roadway or in

1 an intersection of roadways.

2 (h) A violation of this section is punishable under Section
3 542.401 except that:

4 (1) if the violation results in property damage, the
5 violation is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed \$500;
6 or

7 (2) if the violation results in bodily injury, the
8 violation is a Class B misdemeanor.

9 (i) It is a defense to prosecution under this section that
10 at the time of the offense the unprotected road user was acting in
11 violation of the law.

12 (j) If conduct constituting an offense under this section
13 also constitutes an offense under another section of this code or
14 the Penal Code, the actor may be prosecuted under either section or
15 both sections.

16 SECTION 2. Section 547.602, Transportation Code, is amended
17 to read as follows:

18 Sec. 547.602. MIRRORS REQUIRED. (a) A motor vehicle,
19 including a motor vehicle used to tow another vehicle, shall be
20 equipped with a mirror located to reflect to the operator a view of
21 the highway for a distance of at least 200 feet from the rear of the
22 vehicle.

23 (b) The following types of vehicles, when operated on a
24 highway with a speed limit of at least 15 miles per hour, shall be
25 equipped with a mirror located to reflect to the operator a view of
26 the highway for a distance of at least 200 feet from the rear of the
27 vehicle:

1 (1) handcycle;

2 (2) bicycle;

3 (3) horse-driven conveyance;

4 (4) farm tractor;

5 (5) implement of husbandry;

6 (6) self-propelled unit of farm equipment; and

7 (7) motor-assisted scooter.

8 (c) It is a defense to prosecution for an offense under
9 Subsection (b) that the vehicle was purchased before September 1,
10 2015.

11 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.