

BILL ANALYSIS

H.B. 61
By: White
Transportation
Committee Report (Unamended)

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

It has been suggested that, despite fulfilling an important role in the management of roadways in Texas, escort flag vehicles are not equipped with the tools necessary to maximize their efforts in facilitating safety on those roadways. H.B. 61 seeks to address this issue by authorizing flag escort vehicles to be equipped with alternating or flashing blue and amber lights.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE IMPACT

It is the committee's opinion that this bill does not expressly create a criminal offense, increase the punishment for an existing criminal offense or category of offenses, or change the eligibility of a person for community supervision, parole, or mandatory supervision.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

It is the committee's opinion that this bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, department, agency, or institution.

ANALYSIS

H.B. 61 amends the Transportation Code to authorize an escort flag vehicle, defined by the bill as a vehicle that precedes or follows an oversize or overweight vehicle for the purpose of facilitating the safe movement of the oversize or overweight vehicle over roads, to be equipped with alternating or flashing blue and amber lights.

EFFECTIVE DATE

September 1, 2019.