

SUBJECT: Classifying fertilizer spreaders, feed trailers as an implement of husbandry

COMMITTEE: Agriculture and Livestock — committee substitute recommended

VOTE: 7 ayes — T. King, C. Anderson, Cyrier, González, Rinaldi, Simpson,
Springer

0 nays

WITNESSES: For — Donnie Dippel, Texas Ag Industries Association (TAIA);
(*Registered, but did not testify:* David Gibson, Corn Producers
Association of Texas; Kaleb McLaurin, Texas and Southwestern
Cattleraisers Association; Josh Winegarner, Texas Cattle Feeders
Association; Robert Turner, Texas Poultry Federation)

Against — None

On — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Jeremiah Kuntz, Texas Department
of Motor Vehicles)

BACKGROUND: Transportation Code, sec. 541.201 designates as an “implement of
husbandry” a vehicle, other than a passenger car or truck, that is designed
and adapted for use as a farm implement, machinery, or tool for tilling the
soil.

Implements of husbandry are exempted from certain requirements, such as
width restrictions for vehicles operated on public highways. Questions
have been raised recently as to whether certain vehicles qualify as an
implement of husbandry exempt from certain requirements.

DIGEST: CSHB 2202 would stipulate that a towed vehicle that transported and
spread fertilizer or agricultural chemicals or a motor vehicle designed and
adapted to deliver feed to livestock would qualify as an implement of
husbandry. These meanings would be added to the current definition of
implement of husbandry under Transportation Code, sec. 541.201.

The bill would specify that certain exceptions to width restrictions of vehicles operated on public highways would apply to “implements of husbandry” as defined by sec. 541.201.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2015.