

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

Senate Research Center  
82R29223 AJZ-F

C.S.H.B. 2981  
By: Hunter (Hegar)  
Transportation & Homeland Security  
5/19/2011  
Committee Report (Substituted)

### **AUTHOR'S / SPONSOR'S STATEMENT OF INTENT**

Under current law it is permissible for motor vehicle operators to allow persons of any age to travel as passengers in or on a towed watercraft. This is dangerous and inconsistent with the restrictions imposed on motor vehicle operators with respect to passengers in the bed of a truck or towed trailer.

C.S.H.B. 2981 amends current law relating to the operation on a highway or street of a motor vehicle that is drawing a boat or personal watercraft in or on which a child is riding, and provides a penalty.

### **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 545.4145, as follows:

Sec. 545.4145. RIDING IN OR ON BOAT OR PERSONAL WATERCRAFT DRAWN BY VEHICLE; OFFENSE. (a) Provides that a person commits an offense if the person operates a motor vehicle on a highway or street when a child younger than 18 years of age is occupying a boat or personal watercraft being drawn by the motor vehicle.

(b) Provides that it is a defense to prosecution under this section that the person was operating the motor vehicle in a parade or in an emergency, or operating the motor vehicle on a beach.

(c) Defines, in this section, "boat" and "personal watercraft."

SECTION 2. Effective date: September 1, 2011.