

CHAPTER 445

H.B. No. 104

An Act relating to the operation of emergency fire-fighting vehicles through a mutual aid organization.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. Article II, Uniform Act Regulating Traffic on Highways (Article 6701d, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes), is amended by adding Section 24A to read as follows:

Sec. 24A. MUTUAL AID ORGANIZATIONS. (a) *Two or more businesses whose activities require maintaining fire-fighting equipment may form a mutual aid organization in which the businesses that are members of the organization agree to assist each other during emergencies by supplying fire-fighting equipment or services.*

(b) *The chairman or director of an organization formed under this section shall deliver for approval a list to the county fire marshal, or to the commissioners court in counties without a fire marshal, in each county in which a member is located. The list must contain the name of the registered owner and license plate number of each motor vehicle that each member intends to use in supplying fire-fighting equipment or services.*

(c) *If the county fire marshal or commissioners court determines that the operation of the vehicles on a list submitted under Subsection (b) of this section is in the public interest and would not pose a threat to public safety, the marshal or court shall approve the list.*

(d) *On approval by the county fire marshal or commissioners court, a person driving a motor vehicle listed under Subsection (b) of this section in response to a call for emergency fire-fighting assistance from a member has all the rights and restrictions placed by this Act on the driver of an authorized emergency vehicle.*

(e) *A county is not liable for damage to a person or property caused by a person approved by the county under this section to operate a motor vehicle for emergency fire-fighting assistance.*

SECTION 2. The importance of this legislation and the crowded condition of the calendars in both houses create an emergency and an imperative public necessity that the constitutional rule requiring bills to be read on three several days in each house be suspended, and this rule is hereby suspended, and that this Act take effect and be in force from and after its passage, and it is so enacted.

Passed by the House on March 28, 1985, by the following vote: Yeas 134, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting; passed by the Senate on May 15, 1985, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Approved: June 11, 1985

Effective: Immediately