

CHAPTER 368

H.B. No. 922

An Act relating to the designation of school crossing zones and school crossing guards and the direction of traffic in school crossing zones by school crossing guards.

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

SECTION 1. Section 12, Uniform Act Regulating Traffic on Highways (Article 6701d, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes), is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 12. LOCAL AUTHORITIES. Every county, municipal, and other local board or body having authority to enact laws relating to traffic under the constitution and laws of this state. *Additionally, any school district created under the laws of this state shall constitute a local authority for the limited purpose of designating school crossing guards for schools operated by the school district.*

SECTION 2. The Uniform Act Regulating Traffic on Highways (Article 6701d, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes) is amended by adding Section 20K to read as follows:

Sec. 20K. "School crossing guard" means a responsible person over the age of eighteen years (18) who is designated by a local authority to direct traffic in school crossing zones for the protection of children going to and leaving from a public or private primary or secondary school, or any combination thereof.

SECTION 3. The Uniform Act Regulating Traffic on Highways (Article 6701d, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes) is amended by adding Section 20L to read as follows:

Sec. 20L. "School crossing zone" means a crosswalk designated upon any street by a local authority to facilitate safe crossing of the street by children going to or leaving from a public or private elementary or secondary school, or any combination thereof.

SECTION 4. Section 23, Uniform Act Regulating Traffic on Highways (Article 6701d, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes), is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 23. OBEDIENCE TO POLICE OFFICERS AND TO SCHOOL CROSSING GUARDS. (a) No person shall willfully fail or refuse to comply with any lawful order or direction of any police officer invested by law with authority to direct, control, or regulate traffic.

(b) *No person shall willfully fail or refuse to comply with any lawful order or direction to stop and yield to pedestrians given by any school crossing guard while in the performance of his duties in a designated school crossing zone.*

SECTION 5. Section 27, Uniform Act Regulating Traffic on Highways (Article 6701d, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes), is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 27. POWERS OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES. (a) The provisions of this Act shall not be deemed to prevent local authorities with respect to streets and highways under their jurisdiction and within the reasonable exercise of the police power from--

1. Regulating the stopping, standing or parking of vehicles;
2. Regulating traffic by means of police officers or traffic-control devices;
3. Regulating or prohibiting processions or assemblages on the highways;
4. Designating particular highways as one-way highways and requiring that all vehicles thereon be moved in one specific direction;
5. Regulating the speed of vehicles in public parks;
6. Designating any highway as a through highway and requiring that all vehicles stop or yield before entering or crossing the same, or designating any intersection as a stop intersection or a yield intersection and requiring all vehicles to stop or yield at one or more entrances to such intersection;
7. Regulating the operation of bicycles and requiring the registration and licensing of same, including the requirement of a registration fee;
8. Regulating or prohibiting the turning of vehicles or specified types of vehicles at intersections;
9. Altering the speed limits as authorized herein;
10. *Designating school crossing guards and school crossing zones;*
11. *Adopting such other traffic regulations as are specifically authorized by this Act.*

(b) No local authority shall erect or maintain any stop sign or yield sign or traffic-control device at any location so as to require the traffic on any State highway, including Farm-to-

Market or Ranch-to-Market roads, to stop or yield before entering or crossing any intersecting highway unless such signs or devices are erected and maintained by virtue of an agreement entered into between such local authority and the State Highway Department under the provisions of Senate Bill No. 415, Acts of the 46th Legislature, Regular Session.

(c) No ordinance or regulation enacted under Subsection (4), (5), (6), or (9) of Subsection (a) of this section shall be effective until signs giving notice of such local traffic regulations are posted upon or at the entrances to the highway or part thereof affected as may be most appropriate.

SECTION 6. This Act takes effect September 1, 1985.

SECTION 7. 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.

Passed by the House on May 9, 1985, by a non-record vote ; passed by the Senate on May 26, 1985, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Approved: June 10, 1985

Effective: September 1, 1985