

## CHAPTER 361

## H.B. No. 167

## AN ACT

relating to requiring safety chains for vehicles towing trailers.

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

SECTION 1. Article XIII, Uniform Act Regulating Traffic on Highways (Article 6701d, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes), is amended by adding Section 106A to read as follows:

*Sec. 106A. SAFETY CHAINS. (a) In this section "safety chains" means flexible tension members connected from the front portion of a towed vehicle to the rear portion of a towing vehicle to maintain connection between the vehicles if the primary connecting system fails.*

*(b) A person may not operate a passenger vehicle while towing a trailer or house trailer on a public highway unless safety chains of a type approved by the department are attached in a manner approved by the department from the trailer or house trailer to the towing vehicle.*

*(c) The department shall adopt rules setting forth the type of safety chains required to be used based on the weight of the trailer or house trailer being towed. The rules shall:*

*(1) require safety chains to be strong enough to maintain connection between the trailer or house trailer and the towing vehicle; and*

*(2) indicate the proper method of attachment of safety chains between the trailer or the house trailer and the towing vehicle.*

*(d) The requirements of Subsection (b) of this section do not apply to a passenger vehicle towing a trailer used for agricultural purposes.*

*(e) This section shall not apply to any trailer which is operated in compliance with the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations.*

*(f) The rules adopted by the Department of Public Safety under Subsection (c) of this section shall not apply to trailers which are equipped with safety chains installed by the original manufacturer before the effective date of the rules.*

SECTION 2. The Department of Public Safety shall adopt initial rules under Section 106A(c), Uniform Act Regulating Traffic on Highways (Article 6701d, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes), as added by this Act, not later than December 1, 1993. A person is not required before March 1, 1994, to have safety chains that meet the requirements of the rules adopted by the Department of Public Safety.

SECTION 3. 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 April 23, 1993, by a non-record vote; passed by the Senate on May 19, 1993: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Approved May 31, 1993.

Effective Aug. 30, 1993, 90 days after date of adjournment.