

- SUBJECT:** Requiring drivers to slow down when passing certain service vehicles
- COMMITTEE:** Transportation — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 13 ayes — Canales, Landgraf, Bernal, Y. Davis, Goldman, Hefner, Krause, Leman, Martinez, Ortega, Raney, Thierry, E. Thompson
- 0 nays
- WITNESSES:** For — Tom Coad, AEP Texas; Rudy Garza, CPS Energy; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Karen Rove, AGC of Texas Highway Heavy; Erika Akpan, Association of Electric Companies of Texas; Gary Pedigo, Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen; June Deadrick, CenterPoint Energy; Christine Wright, City of San Antonio; Chance Sampson, Entergy Texas, Inc.; Tom Oney, Lower Colorado River Authority; Evan Autry, Texas Electric Cooperatives; JJ Rocha, Texas Municipal League; Rene Lara, Texas AFL-CIO)
- Against — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Terri Hall, Texas TURF and Texans for Toll-Free Highways; Don Dixon; Stephanie Ingersoll)
- BACKGROUND:** Transportation Code sec. 545.157 requires a vehicle operator approaching a stationary authorized emergency vehicle or certain other vehicles to vacate the lane closest to the vehicle and slow to a speed at least 20 miles per hour less than the posted speed limit.
- A violation of this requirement is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of between \$1 and \$200, except that it is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of \$500 if the violation results in property damage. The offense is class B misdemeanor (up to 180 days in jail and/or a maximum fine of \$2,000) if it results in bodily injury.
- DIGEST:** HB 1770 would add service vehicles used in the maintenance of an electrical power line and using visual signals to the list of vehicles for which an approaching driver would be required to vacate the closest lane and slow to a speed at least 20 miles per hour less than the posted speed

limit.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2019.