

SUBJECT:	Permitting certain high-mounted pulsing brake lights
COMMITTEE:	Transportation — favorable, without amendment
VOTE:	11 ayes — Canales, Raney, Ashby, Davis, Gámez, Caroline Harris, Landgraf, Lozano, Ordaz, Patterson, Perez 0 nays 2 absent — Lujan, Romero
WITNESSES:	For — Kevin Cannon, Brake Plus Against — (<i>Registered, but did not testify</i> : Drew Campbell, AFIA) On — (<i>Registered, but did not testify</i> : Justin Chrane, Texas DPS \ Texas Highway Patrol)
DIGEST:	HB 1415 would consider a high-mounted brake light to comply with federal standards if it pulsated four or fewer times but never deactivated when the vehicle braked for less than two seconds. The bill would take effect September 1, 2023.
SUPPORTERS SAY:	HB 1415 would clarify that certain pulsing brake lights were legal. These types of brake lights are already commonly used and can better alert distracted drivers that are behind a braking car. Federal law and regulations do not prohibit a pulsing light that does not activate and deactivate. Since pulsing brake lights also do not impair the effectiveness of the lighting equipment, they may be used under federal law. Other states allow for their use and, in the face of ambiguous federal regulations, it is the duty of the states to interpret and clarify the law.
CRITICS SAY:	The brake lights that HB 1415 would authorize could violate federal law. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and

federal law do not explicitly authorize pulsing brake lights, meaning Texas drivers could be held liable for operating vehicles with these brake lights.