BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center

H.B. 3366 By: Talton (Gallegos) State Affairs 5/5/1999 Engrossed

DIGEST

Currently, federal lighting regulation allows accessory lights to be on motor carriers, in addition to the required taillamps and turn signals. In order to allow other drivers to be aware of a tow truck's changes in speed and direction, even when the rear of the tow truck is obscured during towing, tow trucks are now equipped with light bars that have red turn signals and stop lights. In addition, the tow lights are currently required to be placed on the vehicle being towed and not on the tow truck. H.B. 3366 would regulate the lighting equipment on tow trucks.

PURPOSE

As proposed, H.B. 3366 regulates the lighting equipment on tow trucks.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

This bill does not grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Section 547.305(d), Transportation Code, to authorize a vehicle to be equipped with alternatively flashing lighting equipment described by Section 547.701 or 547.702, only if it is a certain vehicle, including a tow truck with a mounted light bar which has turn signals and stop lamps in addition to those required by Sections 547.322, 547.323, 547.324, Transportation Code.

- SECTION 2. Effective date: July 1, 1999. Makes application of this Act prospective.
- SECTION 3. Emergency clause.