

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
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C.S.S.B. 817
By: Armbrister
State Affairs
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Committee Report (Substituted)

DIGEST AND PURPOSE

Currently, certain state agencies use undercover investigative work, often under dangerous circumstances, to investigate and apprehend violators. C.S.S.B. 817 provides that surveillance vehicles used by certain state agencies, including the Texas Department of Banking, the Texas Lottery Commission, the office of the attorney general, and the Texas Department of Insurance, be exempted from the Transportation Code requirement that state agency vehicles, unless exempted, bear the agency's name in letters not less than two inches high.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

Rulemaking authority is expressly granted to the Texas Department of Banking, the Texas Lottery Commission, the office of the attorney general, and the Texas Department of Insurance in SECTION 1 (Section 721.003, Transportation Code) of this bill).

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Section 721.003, Transportation Code, by amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsection (e), as follows:

(a) Authorizes the governing bodies of certain state agencies or divisions by rule to exempt from the requirements of Section 721.002 a motor vehicle that is under the control and custody of the agency or division, including the Texas Department of Banking, the Texas Lottery Commission, the office of the attorney general, and the Texas Department of Insurance.

(e) Authorizes a rule adopted by the Texas Lottery Commission under Subsection (a) to exempt from the requirements of Section 721.002 only a motor vehicle used exclusively for surveillance purposes.

SECTION 2. Repealer: Section 721.003(b) (regarding an Exemption From Inscription Requirement for Certain State-Owned Motor Vehicles), Transportation Code.

SECTION 3. Effective date: September 1, 2001.

SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE CHANGES

SECTION 1. Amends original As Filed S.B. 817, to authorize the governing bodies of the office of the attorney general and the Texas Department of Insurance by rule to exempt from the requirements of Section 721.002 a motor vehicle that is under the control and custody of the office or department.

SECTION 2. Repeals Section 721.003(b), Transportation Code.

SECTION 3. Redesignates original proposed SECTION 2 as SECTION 3.