

By: Goldman

H.B. No. 1249

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a prohibition of certain motor vehicles resembling
emergency medical services vehicles; creating a criminal offense.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 773, Health and Safety
Code, is amended by adding Section 773.017 to read as follows:

Sec. 773.017. USE OF CERTAIN EXTERNAL MOTOR VEHICLE
MARKINGS OR FEATURES PROHIBITED; CRIMINAL OFFENSE. (a) A person
may not operate a motor vehicle in this state that resembles an
emergency medical services vehicle unless the person uses the motor
vehicle:

(1) as an emergency medical services vehicle under
this chapter; or

(2) for other legitimate governmental functions,
including police or firefighting services.

(b) A motor vehicle resembles an emergency medical services
vehicle if the motor vehicle has on the exterior of the motor
vehicle any of the following markings or features:

(1) the word "ambulance" or a derivation of that word;

(2) a star of life as trademarked by the National
Highway Traffic Safety Administration;

(3) a Maltese cross commonly used by fire departments;

(4) forward-facing flashing red, white, or blue
lights;

1 (5) a siren;

2 (6) the words "critical care transport," "emergency,"
3 "emergency medical services," or "mobile intensive care unit"; or

4 (7) the acronym "EMS" or "MICU".

5 (c) A person commits an offense if the person violates this
6 section. An offense under this subsection is a Class C misdemeanor.

7 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.