

By: Berman

H.B. No. 537

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the transportation of children in passenger vans;  
creating an offense.

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

SECTION 1. Section 545.412(f)(2), Transportation Code, is amended to read as follows:

(2) "Passenger vehicle" means a passenger car, light truck, sport utility vehicle, passenger van designed to transport 15 or fewer passengers, including the driver, truck, or truck tractor.

SECTION 2. Section 545.413, Transportation Code, is amended by adding Subsection (b-1) to read as follows:

(b-1) A person commits an offense if the person allows a child who is younger than 17 years of age and who is not required to be secured in a child passenger safety seat system under Section 545.412(a) to ride in a passenger van designed to transport 15 or fewer passengers, including the driver, without securing the child individually by a safety belt.

SECTION 3. The change in law made by this Act applies only to an offense committed on or after the effective date of this Act. An offense committed before the effective date of this Act is covered by the law in effect immediately before the effective date of this Act, and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose. For purposes of this section, an offense was committed

1 before the effective date of this Act if any element of the offense  
2 was committed before that date.

3 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.