

Civil Immunity for Entry into Vehicle to Remove a Vulnerable Person or Domestic Animal; HB 2516

HB 2516 creates law providing for immunity from civil liability for damage to a motor vehicle for a person who enters the vehicle, by force or otherwise, to remove a vulnerable person or domestic animal, if the person entering:

- Determines the vehicle is locked or there is otherwise no reasonable method for the vulnerable person or domestic animal to exit the vehicle without assistance;
- Has a good faith and reasonable belief, based upon known circumstances, that entry is necessary because the vulnerable person or domestic animal is in imminent danger of suffering harm;
- Ensures law enforcement is notified or calls 911 before or immediately after entering the vehicle;
- Uses no more force to enter the vehicle and remove the vulnerable person or domestic animal than is necessary; and
- Remains with the vulnerable person or domestic animal in a safe location in reasonable proximity to the vehicle until law enforcement or a first responder arrives.

The bill defines “domestic animal” to include a dog, cat, or other animal that is domesticated and may be kept as a household pet. This does not include livestock, as defined elsewhere in statute, or other farm animals.

The bill defines “vulnerable person” to mean an adult whose ability to perform the normal activities of daily living or to provide for such adult’s own care or protection is impaired or a minor.

The bill defines “motor vehicle” by reference to the definition in the statutes governing vehicle registration.