

HOUSE BILL 765: Regulatory Reform Act of 2015, Secs. 3.3 and 3.4: Good Samaritan Expansion

Committee:		Date:	
Introduced by:		Prepared by:	Susan Sitze
Analysis of:	Secs. 3.3 and 3.4 of S.L. 2015-286		Staff Attorney

SUMMARY: Secs. 3.3 and 3.4 of S.L. 2015-286 expand the Good Samaritan exception to allow entering of certain types of property in order to provide emergency assistance.

These sections became effective December 1, 2015, and apply to offenses committed on or after that date and causes of action arising on or after that date.

BILL ANALYSIS:

Section 3.3 amends the criminal law to create an exception to the law against breaking or entering into or out of a railroad car, motor vehicle, trailer, aircraft, boat, or other watercraft under certain circumstances. The following circumstances are not violations of the law:

- If the person committing the act does so in good faith to provide first aid or emergency health care, or because the person inside is in imminent danger of becoming unconscious, ill, or injured.
- Prompt decisions and actions in medical, other health care, or other assistance are required.
- Immediate health care or removal of the person is so reasonably apparent that any delay would seriously worsen the physical condition or endanger the life of the person.

This section became effective December 1, 2015, and applies to offenses committed on or after that date.

Section 3.4 creates immunity from civil liability for damage to a railroad car, motor vehicle, trailer, aircraft, boat, or other watercraft, if the damage occurred while a person was rendering emergency assistance to another person inside the conveyance. Immunity is triggered if one or more of the following circumstances exist:

- If the person committing the act does so in good faith to provide first aid or emergency health care, or because the person inside is in imminent danger of becoming unconscious, ill, or injured.
- Prompt decisions and actions in medical, other health care, or other assistance are required.
- Immediate health care or removal of the person is so reasonably apparent that any delay would seriously worsen the physical condition or endanger the life of the person.

This section became effective December 1, 2015, and applies to causes of action arising on or after that date.

EFFECTIVE DATE: See effective dates noted above.

Karen Cochrane-Brown Director



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This bill analysis was prepared by the nonpartisan legislative staff for the use of legislators in their deliberations and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.