

- SUBJECT:** Designation of pooled turnpike projects
- COMMITTEE:** Transportation — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 8 ayes — Alexander, Siebert, Edwards, Hamric, Hawley, Hill, Noriega, Uher  
1 nay — Y. Davis
- SENATE VOTE:** On final passage, Local and Uncontested Calendar, April 19 — 30-0
- WITNESSES:** (*On House companion bill, HB 1943:*)  
For — None  
Against — None  
On — Pete Winstead, Texas Turnpike Authority
- BACKGROUND:** The Texas Turnpike Authority (TTA) may designate two or more turnpike projects as a pooled turnpike project. This allows the authority to collect money from a project that has repaid fully the cost of its construction and to distribute it to another project that needs funding assistance. The projects must be within the same planning district of the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT). A turnpike project may be pooled only once.
- DIGEST:** SB 926 would allow TTA to designate a pooled turnpike project to include two or more projects located within two adjacent districts of TxDOT. It would repeal the section of the Transportation Code that prohibits a turnpike project from being pooled more than once.
- SUPPORTERS SAY:** SB 926 would give TTA greater flexibility to distribute funds from successful projects to other projects in need of funding. If a turnpike project is successful in earning revenue beyond the cost of its construction, the authority should be able to use future revenue for other roads in the area that need financial support. Turnpike revenue is a reliable source of transportation funding that should be used for more than one additional project if funding is needed.

The requirement to keep funds from a successful project within two adjacent districts would ensure that the funds did not leave the region entirely. The bill would not facilitate the transfer of funds across the state.

**OPPONENTS  
SAY:**

Turnpike projects should be returned to free use once they have earned enough revenue to cover the cost of construction. The state should not continue to collect tolls from drivers on a fully funded road to cover the cost of other projects.