

SUBJECT: Adding provisions to maximize federal funds for transportation

COMMITTEE: Transportation — committee substitute recommended

VOTE: 6 ayes — Phillips, Y. Davis, Lavender, Martinez, Pickett, Rodriguez
0 nays

5 absent — Darby, Bonnen, Fletcher, Harper-Brown, McClendon

WITNESSES: For — Barry Goodman

Against — None

BACKGROUND: In its *Government Effectiveness and Efficiency Report* to the 82nd Legislature, the Legislative Budget Board (LBB) made several recommendations to maximize federal funds Texas receives for transportation. The LBB recommended several statutory changes to implement this recommendation, including:

- requiring the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) to create plans to maximize federal funding for all modes of transportation in the statewide plan;
- TxDOT coordinating with local entities to identify projects eligible for scenic byways grants; and
- requiring the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (TxDMV) to participate in the Uniform Hazardous Material State Registration and Permit Program.

Transportation Code, sec. 201.601 requires TxDOT to develop a statewide transportation plan that contains all modes of transportation.

DIGEST: CSHB 1276 would require the statewide transportation plan to include a component evaluating future federal funding opportunities for all modes of transportation and identifying actions necessary to maximize the receipt of federal funds for transportation.

The bill would require TxDOT to work with local transportation planning entities to maximize the amount of funds received from federal grant programs, including the scenic byways program.

The bill would require TxDMV to adopt rules establishing and administering uniform hazardous materials registration and permitting in accord with procedures in federal law.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2011.

NOTES:

The committee substitute of HB 1276 deleted a provision in the introduced version that would have implemented a recommendation in the LBB's *Effectiveness and Efficiency* report to require a peace officer to collect data on the race and ethnicity of passengers in a vehicle stopped for a traffic violation. Current law requires a peace officer to report various information, including the race and ethnicity, only of the operator of a stopped motor vehicle.