

SUBJECT: Studying the transportation needs of the Middle Rio Grande region

COMMITTEE: Transportation — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 10 ayes — Canales, Landgraf, Bernal, Y. Davis, Hefner, Krause, Leman, Martinez, Ortega, E. Thompson

0 nays

3 absent — Goldman, Raney, Thierry

WITNESSES: For — Ernie Gonzalez, City of Eagle Pass, Texas; (*Registered, but did not testify*): Leticia Van de Putte, City of Del Rio)

Against — None

DIGEST: HB 2419 would require the Texas Department of Transportation to conduct a study to assess the long-term transportation needs of the area served by the Middle Rio Grande Planning Region council of governments.

The study would consider how the area's transportation needs related to economic development, commuter safety, traffic congestion, and homeland security.

The department would submit a report on the results of the study to the governor, lieutenant governor, House speaker, and the presiding officers of each standing committee of the Legislature with jurisdiction over transportation by January 1, 2021. The bill's provisions would expire January 31, 2021.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2019.