

- SUBJECT:** Designating routes for oversize cargo vehicles in Matagorda County
- COMMITTEE:** Transportation — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 12 ayes — Canales, Bernal, Y. Davis, Goldman, Hefner, Krause, Leman, Martinez, Ortega, Raney, Thierry, E. Thompson
- 0 nays
- 1 absent — Landgraf
- WITNESSES:** For — None
- Against — None
- On — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Jimmy Archer, Texas Department of Motor Vehicles)
- BACKGROUND:** Transportation Code ch. 623, subch. K outlines an optional procedure for the issuance of permits for the movement of oversize or overweight vehicles carrying cargo on state highways in certain counties. The Texas Transportation Commission may authorize port authorities to issue these permits, and port authorities are allowed to collect fees for issued permits. These fees may be used only to provide for the maintenance and improvement of designated state highways.
- Under sec. 623.215, a permit issued under subch. K must include a statement of the most direct route as designated by the Texas Transportation Commission, and vehicles carrying cargo under an issued permit must do so on the designated route.
- Interested parties have suggested that providing for the issuance of permits for additional designated routes in Matagorda County would allow for the collection of fees to maintain highways in the county.
- DIGEST:** HB 3460 would require the Texas Transportation Commission to

designate the most direct route from certain points for permits issued by a port authority contiguous to the Gulf of Mexico or a bay or inlet opening into the gulf with a population of not more than 200,000 that was adjacent to a county that was adjacent to at least two counties with a population of 550,000 or more (Port of Palacios in Matagorda County).

The commission would be required to designate the most direct route from:

- the intersection of State Highway 35 and McCrosky Road in Matagorda County to the entrance of the Port of Palacios using State Highway 35;
- the intersection of State Highway 60 and Chalmers Road in Matagorda County to the entrance of the Port of Palacios using State Highway 60;
- the intersection of Farm-to-Market Road 521 and Weathers Road in Matagorda County to the entrance of the Port of Palacios using FM 521; and
- the intersection of State Highway 71 and Wind Road in Matagorda County to the entrance of the Port of Palacios using State Highway 71.

The bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2019.