

- SUBJECT:** Allowing donation of property acquired using toll revenue bonds to U.S.
- COMMITTEE:** Transportation — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 13 ayes — Canales, E. Thompson, Ashby, Bucy, Davis, Harris, Landgraf, Lozano, Martinez, Ortega, Perez, Rogers, Smithee
- 0 nays
- WITNESSES:** For — Cynthia Garza-Reyes, City of Pharr and Pharr International Bridge; (*Registered, but did not testify:* Mackenna Wehmeyer, TAG Houston)
- Against — None
- On — Terri Hall, Texas TURF and Texans for Toll-free Highways; Don Dixon
- BACKGROUND:** Some have recommended expressly authorizing municipalities near the Rio Grande bordering Mexico to donate property or other facilities acquired using toll revenue bonds to the U.S. government to facilitate the safe movement of people and goods across the Mexican border.
- DIGEST:** HB 2843 would authorize a municipality within 15 miles of a section of the Rio Grande bordering Mexico to donate to the United States property or a facility that was acquired, constructed, improved, enlarged, or equipped with proceeds from the sale of bonds issued for purposes related to a toll bridge. The bill would establish that such a donation was a public purpose and a proper municipal function.
- 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, 2021. It would apply only to a bond issued on or after the effective date.