

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center

H.B. 2522
By: Wilson (Armbrister)
State Affairs
5/10/2001
Engrossed

DIGEST AND PURPOSE

With the closing of Robert Mueller Airport in Austin, an additional venue for air travel in Central Texas has been eliminated. H.B. 2522 requires the Texas Department of Transportation to establish and maintain a state airport in Central Texas.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

This bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Chapter 21B, Transportation Code, by adding Section 21.069, as follows:

Sec. 21.069. STATE AIRPORT IN CENTRAL TEXAS. Requires the Texas Department of Transportation (department) in consultation with the State Aircraft Pooling Board to establish and maintain in Central Texas an airport open to the general public. Requires the site selection to be conducted by the Aviation Division of the Texas Department of Transportation (ADTDT). Requires ADTDT, in determining the appropriate location for a state airport in Central Texas, to consider certain factors. Authorizes the department to acquire property by eminent domain that the State Aircraft Pooling Board considers necessary to enable it to meet its responsibilities under this section. Provides that neither the department nor the ADTDT is authorized to consider for the purposes of this section any property in a municipality without the approval of the governing body of the municipality. Prohibits the department from considering for the purposes of this section any property outside of municipalities without the approval of the commissioners court of the county in which the property is located. Prohibits the department and ADTDT from considering for the purposes of this section the property in Austin, Texas, identified as Robert Mueller Airport. Requires the department to utilize only federal matching funds, federal grants, in-kind contributions, private sector funds, nonprofit grants, and local government funding for the establishment of this facility.

SECTION 2. Effective date: upon passage or September 1, 2001.