

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
77R5471 DWS-F

S.B. 773
By: Harris
State Affairs
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As Filed

DIGEST AND PURPOSE

Currently, the Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT) does not have the authority to contract with private entities to make highway improvements such as turn lanes or exit ramps. Under current law, if a commercial enterprise, such as a store, wants a turn lane in front of that business, it is required to give money for the improvement to the city which in turn contracts with TXDOT for the project. As proposed, S.B. 773 gives TXDOT the authority to contract with public and private entities directly to fund road improvements. This enables reduced time frames for contracting and the accrued cost savings to local governments.

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 201D, Transportation Code, by adding Section 201.209, as follows:

Sec. 201.209. AUTHORITY TO CONTRACT. Authorizes the Department of Transportation (department) to contract with any public or private entity to carry out the department's powers, duties, and responsibilities.

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