

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
78R16599 JRJ-D

C.S.H.B. 3330
By: Crownover (Estes)
Infrastructure Development and Security
5-22-2003
Committee Report (Substituted)

DIGEST AND PURPOSE

Currently, Texas law restricts logo reader boards, the blue signs on the side of the highway that indicate the businesses at that exit, to areas outside an urbanized area with a population of more than 50,000. It is believed that these signs are instrumental in bringing travelers off the highway into a community and impacting that community in a positive economic manner. H.B. 3330 expands the definition of "eligible highway" to include a controlled-access highway located inside an urbanized area with a population of 50,000 or more.

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 Section 391.001(2), Transportation Code, to redefine "eligible highway" to include a controlled-access highway located inside an urbanized area with a population of 50,000 or more.

SECTION 2. Amends Section 391.091, Transportation Code, as follows:

Sec. 391.091. ERECTION AND MAINTENANCE OF SIGNS. (a) Creates this subsection from existing text.

(b) Requires a contract under this section to provide for the assessment of fees to be paid to a contractor by a commercial establishment eligible for display on the specific information logo sign and remittance to the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) of at least 10 percent of the fees collected by the contractor.

SECTION 3. Amends Section 391.0935, Transportation Code, by amending Subsection (c) and adding Subsections (f) and (g), as follows:

(c) Requires a major shopping area that has its name displayed on a major shopping area guide sign to reimburse the Texas Transportation Commission (TTC) for all costs associated with the composition, placement, erection, and maintenance of the sign unless TTC has entered into a contract under Subsection (f).

(f) Authorizes TTC to contract with an individual, firm, group, or association in this state to erect and maintain major shopping area guide signs at appropriate locations along an eligible urban highway.

(g) Requires a contract under this section to provide for the assessment of fees to be paid to a contractor by a major shopping area and remittance to TxDOT of at least 10 percent of the fees collected by the contractor.

SECTION 4. Amends Section 391.097(c), Transportation Code, to make a conforming change.

SECTION 5. (a) Effective date: September 1, 2003.

(b) Makes application of the changes in law made to Sections 391.091, 391.0935, and 391.097(c), Transportation Code, by this Act, prospective.