

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center

H.B. 649
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Transportation & Homeland Security
5/23/2005
Committee Report (Amended)

AUTHOR'S/SPONSOR'S STATEMENT OF INTENT

Current law limits the Texas Department of Transportation's (TxDOT) annual financial participation in toll facilities to \$800 million. The current limit severely hinders TxDOT's ability to leverage limited financial resources to address the mobility crisis in Texas. H.B. 649 increases the cap on toll equity to provide TxDOT the ability to leverage limited financial resources to address mobility needs.

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 222.103, Transportation Code, by amending Subsections (d), (e), and (h), and adding Subsection (d-1), as follows:

(d) Requires the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) annually to publish a status report on certain highway construction projects, by legislative district. Deletes existing text requiring the report to be made on the request of a legislator and include state-funded or federally-funded projects.

(d-1) Requires TxDOT, on the request of a member of the legislature, to provide the member a status report on all highway construction projects, by the legislative district, that are under contract or awaiting funding and would be funded in any manner by state, federal, or toll funds.

(e) Makes a conforming change.

(h) Prohibits money granted by TxDOT each fiscal year under this section from exceeding \$1.5 billion, rather than \$800 million.

SECTION 2. Effective date: upon passage or September 1, 2005.

SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE CHANGES

Committee Amendment No. 1

Amends H.B. 649 in Section 1, proposed Section 222.103, Transportation Code, Page 1, Subsection (d) after line 14, by adding a new Subsection (3):

(3) Requires the department to place annually on the Internet a letting report by highway district, including all funds, and organized by category, including turnpikes, tollways, and regional mobility authorities.