

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
82R7647 JAM-F

S.B. 730
By: Nichols
Transportation & Homeland Security
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As Filed

AUTHOR'S / SPONSOR'S STATEMENT OF INTENT

Current law authorizes the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) to convert an existing nontolled state highway or segment of a highway into a toll road, if the county commissioners court and local voters in the jurisdiction which the road exists consent.

S.B. 730 strikes this provision so that TxDOT will be prohibited from converting an existing nontolled state highway or segment of a highway to a toll road.

As proposed, S.B. 730 amends current law relating to the conversion of a nontolled state highway or segment of the state highway system to a toll project.

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 228.201(a), Transportation Code, as follows:

(a) Prohibits the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) to operate a nontolled state highway or a segment of a nontolled state highway as a toll project, or to transfer a nontolled highway or segment to another entity for operation as a toll project unless:

(1) the Texas Transportation Commission (TTC) by order designated the highway or segment as a toll project before the contract to construct the highway or segment was awarded;

(2) the highway or segment is reconstructed so that the number of nontolled lanes on the highway or segment is greater than or equal to the number in existence before the reconstruction;

(3) a facility that has access, function, and control devices similar to the converted highway segment before conversion is constructed adjacent to the highway or segment so that the number of nontolled lanes on the converted highway or segment and the adjacent facility together is greater than or equal to the number in existence on the converted highway or segment before the conversion; or

(4) subject to Subsection (b), the highway or segment was open to traffic as a high-occupancy vehicle lane on May 1, 2005.

Deletes existing text of Subsection (a) providing an exception as provided by Section 228.2015 (Queen Isabella Causeway). Deletes existing text of Subdivisions (2) and (3) providing that the highway or segment was open to traffic as a turnpike project on or before September 1, 2005, and the project was designated as a toll project in a plan or program of a metropolitan planning organization on or before September 1, 2005. Deletes existing text of Subsection (7) providing that TTC converts the highway or segment to a toll facility by

making the determination required by Section 228.202 (Commission Determination), conducting the hearing required by Section 228.203 (Public Hearing), and obtaining county and voter approval as required by Sections 228.207 (County and Voter Approval) and 228.208 (Election to Approve Conversion) and renumbers subdivisions.

SECTION 2. Repealers: Sections 228.202 (Commission Determination), 228.203 (Public Hearing), 228.207 (County and Voter Approval), and 228.208 (Election to Approve Conversion), Transportation Code.

SECTION 3. Effective date: upon passage or September 1, 2011.