

Harris County-area highway access policies' precedence over state rules

SB 1782 by Lindsay (Hamric)

DIGEST:	SB 1782 would have given precedence to the rules or ordinances of the county commissioners courts of Harris, Liberty, Chambers, Galveston, Brazoria, Fort Bend, Waller, and Montgomery counties, and of municipalities within those counties, over all conflicting highway access control orders of the Texas Transportation Commission (TTC), existing or prospective, including designation of controlled access highways. TTC access orders would have prevailed over local rules only if the Federal Highway Administration had notified the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) that enforcement of conflicting municipal rules or ordinances would have impaired the state's or TxDOT's ability to receive federal highway construction or maintenance funds.
GOVERNOR'S REASON FOR VETO:	"Senate Bill No. 1782 would allow Harris County, a county adjacent to Harris County, or a municipality located in one of these counties to override a Texas Transportation Commission order concerning control of access to the state highway system. All freeways are built as controlled access highways. A drafting error gives a local government the ability to override a Transportation Commission order designating a road as a controlled access highway, which would prohibit the Department of Transportation from building a freeway in these counties. Providing municipalities the ability to decide where access to the state highway system will occur is covered in Senate Bill No. 361 [by Shapiro], which I have signed."
RESPONSE:	Neither Sen. Jon Lindsay, author of SB 1782, nor Rep. Peggy Hamric, the House sponsor, had a comment on the veto.
NOTES:	SB 1782 passed the House on the Local, Consent, and Resolutions Calendar and was not analyzed in a <i>Daily Floor Report</i> . SB 361 was analyzed in the May 20 <i>Daily Floor Report</i> .