

By: Canales, Burrows, Moody, Geren,
King of Uvalde, et al.

H.B. No. 4422

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to a study on enhancing border security outcomes through
3 public safety, technological, and transportation infrastructure
4 improvements near Texas-Mexico border crossings.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

6 SECTION 1. DEFINITION. In this Act, "department" means the
7 Texas Department of Transportation.

8 SECTION 2. STUDY. (a) The department shall conduct a study
9 on public safety, border security, and transportation
10 infrastructure from Texas-Mexico border crossings onto the state
11 highway system to ensure safe, efficient, and streamlined
12 commercial motor vehicle connectivity that amplify Operation Lone
13 Star efforts.

14 (b) The department shall conduct the study in consultation
15 with:

16 (1) the Department of Public Safety of the State of
17 Texas;

18 (2) the Texas Military Department;

19 (3) the Texas A&M Transportation Institute;

20 (4) local law enforcement agencies near the
21 Texas-Mexico border;

22 (5) representatives of county government from at least
23 three noncontiguous counties that are:

24 (A) adjacent to this state's international

1 border with Mexico; or

2 (B) adjacent to a county described by Paragraph
3 (A) of this subdivision;

4 (6) representatives of the transportation industry
5 determined relevant by the department; and

6 (7) an independent nonprofit applied research and
7 development organization selected by the department.

8 (c) As part the study, the department shall:

9 (1) select multiple Texas-Mexico international border
10 crossings that serve commercial vehicles, as determined by the
11 department;

12 (2) analyze current transportation routes for
13 commercial vehicles from border crossings selected under
14 Subdivision (1) of this subsection onto the state highway system
15 and identify ways to:

16 (A) strengthen border security initiatives that
17 support Operation Lone Star or similar state security efforts;

18 (B) support law enforcement response efforts
19 near border crossings to maximize:

20 (i) oversight of border crossings;

21 (ii) inspection of vehicles using the
22 border crossing; and

23 (iii) use of public safety resources;

24 (C) enhance transportation infrastructure and
25 road technology near border crossings to:

26 (i) maximize the safety of communities
27 located near the border and people using the highways near the

1 border; and

2 (ii) improve transportation efficiency and
3 commercial motor vehicle connectivity; and

4 (D) reduce traffic congestion along
5 transportation routes while mitigating safety concerns;

6 (3) consider possible future transportation routes
7 that will:

8 (A) improve efficiency in the movement of
9 commercial motor vehicles from border crossings onto the state
10 highway system; and

11 (B) enhance public safety, mitigate traffic
12 congestion, and streamline commercial motor vehicle connectivity;

13 (4) assess current technologies used to promote border
14 security efforts at commercial inspection facilities at or near
15 border crossings and identify upgrades to existing technologies or
16 alternative technologies that may improve border security efforts;
17 and

18 (5) identify funding strategies and determine the
19 amount of state money needed to improve the processing and flow of
20 commercial motor vehicles at border crossings and improve
21 transportation efficiency and commercial motor vehicle
22 connectivity.

23 SECTION 3. REPORT. Not later than December 1, 2024, the
24 department shall submit to the governor, the lieutenant governor,
25 and the legislature a written report on the findings of the study
26 conducted under this Act and any recommendations of the department.
27 The report must include a review of the anticipated effects of the

1 security and public safety improvements recommended by the study on
2 international trade efforts with Mexico.

3 SECTION 4. EXPIRATION. This Act expires January 1, 2025.

4 SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect
5 immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members
6 elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas
7 Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for
8 immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2023.