

By: Canales

H.B. No. 4422

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
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, in consultation with
9 the Texas Department of Public Safety, the Texas Military
10 Department, local law enforcement near the Texas-Mexico border,
11 Texas A&M Transportation Institute, the Southwest Research
12 Institute, and transportation industry representatives, shall
13 conduct a study on the public safety, border security, and
14 modernization of transportation infrastructure from Texas-Mexico
15 border crossings onto the state highway system for safe, efficient,
16 and streamlined commercial motor vehicle connectivity that amplify
17 Operation Lone Star efforts.

18 (b) The study shall:

19 (1) select multiple Texas-Mexico international border
20 crossings that serve commercial vehicles for this study;

21 (2) analyze current transportation routes for
22 commercial vehicles from border crossings onto the state highway
23 system and identify ways to:

24 (A) bolster border security initiatives that

1 support Operation Lone Star or similar state security efforts;

2 (B) fortify law enforcement response efforts
3 near border crossings that maximize oversight, inspection, and
4 public safety resources;

5 (C) enhance transportation road infrastructure
6 and road technology to maximize the safety of communities and
7 driving public;

8 (D) reduce traffic congestion along routes while
9 mitigating safety concerns; and

10 (E) bolster infrastructure and road technology
11 to improve efficient and streamlined connectivity;

12 (3) analyze possible future transportation routes for
13 greater efficiency in the movement of commercial vehicles from
14 border crossings onto the state highway system that enhance safety,
15 mitigate congestion, and streamline connectivity;

16 (4) assess current technologies utilized under
17 existing border security efforts at commercial inspection
18 facilities at or near border crossings and identify upgrades to or
19 alternative technologies that may improve border security efforts,

20 (5) identify funding strategies and funding amounts to
21 fill any gaps in transportation needs.

22 SECTION 3. REPORT. Not later than December 1, 2024, the
23 department shall submit to the governor, the lieutenant governor,
24 and the legislature a written report on the findings of the study
25 conducted under this Act and any associated recommendations.

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

27 SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect

H.B. No. 4422

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