

By: Nichols, Alvarado

S.B. No. 1555

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a grant program to fund certain railroad grade separation projects.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 471, Transportation Code, is amended by adding Section 471.010 to read as follows:

Sec. 471.010. GRANT PROGRAM FOR CERTAIN RAILROAD GRADE SEPARATION PROJECTS. (a) For the purpose of increasing public safety, enhancing economic development, and reducing traffic, the department shall establish and administer a program to award grants to political subdivisions of this state or railroad companies to fund:

(1) rail-roadway grade separation projects that are located at intersections of railroads and roadways that are not part of the state highway system; and

(2) rail-pedestrian grade separation projects that are located at intersections of railroads and pedestrian crossings.

(b) A political subdivision or railroad company may use money awarded by the department under this section as matching funds to secure additional funding for a grade separation project described by Subsection (a).

(c) Each grant awarded under this section must be approved by the commission. The commission may not approve a grant under this section unless the commission determines that:

1 (1) at least 10 percent of the total project costs will
2 be provided by a source other than the state; or

3 (2) if the grant money is being used as matching funds
4 under Subsection (b), at least 10 percent of the amount used as
5 matching funds will be provided by a source other than the state.

6 (d) The department may fund the grant program under this
7 section only from money appropriated by the legislature for that
8 purpose and from gifts and grants, including grants from the
9 federal government. The department may solicit and accept gifts
10 and grants from any source for the purposes of this section. Money
11 deposited to the credit of the state highway fund may not be used to
12 fund a grant awarded under this section.

13 (e) The commission shall adopt rules as necessary to
14 implement this section.

15 SECTION 2. Not later than October 1, 2025, the Texas
16 Transportation Commission shall adopt the rules required by Section
17 471.010, Transportation Code, as added by this Act.

18 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
19 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
20 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
21 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
22 Act takes effect September 1, 2025.