

BILL ANALYSIS

C.S.H.B. 524
By: Eiland
Transportation
Committee Report (Substituted)

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

Currently, there is no procedure for allowing certain vehicles priority in boarding the Galveston-Port Bolivar ferry. The Bolivar Peninsula has seen an increase in tourist traffic and prolonged waiting periods for passage onto the Bolivar ferry. As proposed, CSHB 524 allows priority boarding on the ferry to and from the Bolivar Peninsula for the owner of a motor vehicle who obtains a ferry sticker. Vehicles with the required sticker will be given priority in boarding the ferry only until the ferry reaches 50 percent of its vehicle capacity.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

Rulemaking authority is expressly granted to the Texas Department of Transportation in SECTION 1 (Sections 342.502 and 342.503, Transportation Code) of this bill.

ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Chapter 342, Transportation Code, by adding Subchapter G, as follows:

SUBCHAPTER G. GALVESTON-PORT BOLIVAR FERRY

Sec. 342.501. FERRY VEHICLE STICKER. (a) Authorizes an owner of a motor vehicle registered under Chapter 502 (Registration of Vehicles) to apply for a vehicle sticker from the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) that entitles the vehicle to have priority in boarding the Galveston-Port Bolivar ferry.

(b) Requires TxDOT to design the sticker and designate the place where the sticker must be affixed to the motor vehicle windshield.

Sec. 342.502. FEE. Requires TxDOT to establish the annual fee by rule in an amount sufficient to cover the cost of implementation.

Sec. 342.503. RULES AND FORMS. (a) Authorizes TxDOT to adopt rules to administer this subchapter.

(b) Requires TxDOT to prescribe forms necessary for the administration of this subchapter.

(c) Requires TxDOT to adopt rules ensuring that vehicles with the required sticker be given priority in boarding the ferry only until the ferry reaches 50 percent of its vehicle capacity.

EFFECTIVE DATE

September 1, 2003

COMPARISON OF ORIGINAL TO SUBSTITUTE

The substitute differs from the original in that the substitute allows TxDOT to set the annual fee for the sticker by rule rather than stipulating the amount of the fee in legislation.