

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center

H.B. 2081
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Business & Commerce
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Engrossed

DIGEST AND PURPOSE

Section 251.081 of the Transportation Code allows the commissioners court of a county to "erect and maintain any necessary bridge in the county." However, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes, Title 52a, Section 19, places requirements and restrictions on public works, including bridges. This section requires a licensed professional engineer to directly supervise construction of a bridge that affects public safety; furthermore, the Occupations Code, Section 1001.053 (Public Works), establishes three exemptions for which a licensed professional engineer is not required. These exemptions are based on the type of project as well as the amount it costs to complete the project. Currently, if a project requires structural, electrical, or mechanical engineering and costs under \$8,000, then a licensed professional engineer is not required. H.B. 2081 removes a public work that involves "structural" engineering from the types of public works exempt from the Texas Engineering Practice Act.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

This bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Section 1001.053, Occupations Code, as follows:

Sec. 1001.053. PUBLIC WORKS. Removes a public work that involves "structural" engineering from public works that are exempt from this chapter. Makes a conforming change.

SECTION 2. Effective date: June 1, 2003 or September 1, 2003.