

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

H.B. 2081  
By: McReynolds  
State Affairs  
Committee Report (Unamended)

### **BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE**

Section 251.081 of the Transportation Code allows the commissioner's 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 it costs under \$8,000, then a licensed professional engineer is not required. The purpose of House Bill 2081 is to raise the current \$8,000 cap to \$20,000 for structural, electrical, or mechanical engineering projects. This cap was last raised in 1989. This change in law allows commissioners courts to make the needed repairs or construction on bridges without having to consult a licensed professional engineer.

### **RULEMAKING AUTHORITY**

It is the opinion of the committee that this bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, department, agency, or institution.

### **ANALYSIS**

House Bill 2081 amends Section 1001.053 of the Occupations Code by substituting \$20,000 for the current \$8,000.

### **EFFECTIVE DATE**

June 1, 2003, or, if the Act does not receive the necessary vote, the Act takes effect September 1, 2003.

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

H.B. 2081  
By: McReynolds  
State Affairs  
Committee Report (Unamended)

### **BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE**

Section 251.081 of the Transportation Code allows the commissioner's 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 it costs under \$8,000, then a licensed professional engineer is not required. The purpose of House Bill 2081 is to raise the current \$8,000 cap to \$20,000 for structural, electrical, or mechanical engineering projects. This cap was last raised in 1989. This change in law allows commissioners courts to make the needed repairs or construction on bridges without having to consult a licensed professional engineer.

### **RULEMAKING AUTHORITY**

It is the opinion of the committee that this bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, department, agency, or institution.

### **ANALYSIS**

House Bill 2081 amends Section 1001.053 of the Occupations Code by substituting \$20,000 for the current \$8,000.

### **EFFECTIVE DATE**

June 1, 2003, or, if the Act does not receive the necessary vote, the Act takes effect September 1, 2003.