

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center

S.B. 1558
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Infrastructure Development and Security
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DIGEST AND PURPOSE

As proposed, S.B. 1558 authorizes the Railroad Commission of Texas to authorize the creation of a regional mobility authority that includes Collin, Dallas, Denton, Parker, Rockwall, and Tarrant counties. This bill also allows for local referendums for authorization to collect tolls on the state highway system to support the regional mobility authority.

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 Subchapter A, Chapter 361, Transportation Code, by adding Section 361.0035, as follows:

- Sec. 361.0035. NORTH TEXAS REGIONAL MOBILITY AUTHORITY. (a) Authorizes the Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC) by order to authorize the creation of a regional mobility authority that includes Collin, Dallas, Denton, Parker, Rockwall, and Tarrant counties.
- (b) Provides that the governing body of the regional mobility authority is a board of directors. Requires the commissioners court of each county in the authority to appoint one director. Requires the mayor of a municipality to appoint one director, if the most populous municipality in a county listed in Subsection (a) has a population of more than 250,000. Requires the governor to appoint one director to serve as the presiding officer of the board of directors of the authority (board). Requires the appointed directors to elect one additional director, who is required to reside in a county in the territory of the authority, if the number of appointed directors is an even number.
- (c) Provides that a regional mobility authority created under this section has all the powers of a regional mobility authority created under Section 361.003 or another law of this state and a regional transportation authority under Chapter 452.
- (d) Provides that for purposes of Subsection (c), all the provisions of Chapter 452 applicable to a regional transportation authority apply to the regional mobility authority, to the extent that they can be made applicable. Provides that all references to an authority in that chapter mean the regional mobility authority. Provides that all references to an executive committee in that chapter mean the board of directors of the regional mobility authority.
- (e) Provides that for a segment of a highway of the free state highway system that leads into and out of the territory of the regional mobility authority, the board of directors of the authority has the same powers as the Texas Department of Transportation under Section 222.102 or as RRC under 362.0041, but only if the board holds a referendum on whether the authority is authorized to impose tolls on the free state highway system.

(f) Requires that at the election the ballots be printed to permit voting for or against the following proposition: "The operation of a toll system by the (name of authority) to support the operation of the North Texas Regional Mobility Authority."

(g) Requires the notice of an election called under this section to include a general description of the form of the services the authority will provide, the general location of any proposed toll booths, the amount of the proposed toll, and the proposed routes of the system.

(h) Authorizes the authority to build and operate the system as provided in the notice for the election, if a majority of the votes cast are in favor of the proposition. Prohibits the authority, if less than a majority of the votes cast are in favor of the proposition, from imposing a toll on a segment of a highway of the free state highway system that leads into and out of the territory of the regional mobility authority.

(i) Authorizes the authority to immediately commence construction of a toll system provided that a toll is only imposed on a segment of the free highway system located within three miles of the outermost territory of the authority as described in Subsection (a), if a majority of the votes cast are in favor of the proposition.

(j) Requires the authority to enter into an agreement with RRC under which the regional mobility authority assumes the duty to maintain or rehabilitate the segment of the highway as required by Section 222.102 or assumes each duty assigned to the commission by Section 362.0041, if a majority of the votes cast are in favor of the proposition.

SECTION 2. Effective date: upon passage or September 1, 2003.