

By: Chavez, et al.

H.B. No. 1653

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to approval of the construction of a bridge over the Rio Grande.

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

SECTION 1. Section 201.612, Transportation Code, is amended by amending Subsections (a) and (b) and adding Subsection (g) to read as follows:

(a) A political subdivision or private entity authorized to construct or finance the construction of a bridge over the Rio Grande:

(1) must obtain approval from the commission and from the United States under Subchapter IV, Chapter 11, Title 33, United States Code, for the construction of the bridge [~~before requesting approval from the United States under Subchapter IV, Chapter 11, Title 33, United States Code~~]; and

(2) shall submit to the commission a report that details the feasibility, location, economic effect, and environmental impact of the bridge and any other information the commission by rule may require.

(b) The [~~To the maximum extent practicable, the~~] department shall:

(1) to the maximum extent practicable, implement the approval process in the manner least burdensome to an applicant;  
and

1           (2) allow an applicant to concurrently seek approval  
2 from the commission and the United States under Subsection (a)(1).

3           (g) If the commission does not approve construction of the  
4 bridge, the applicant shall withdraw the request for approval from  
5 the United States.

6           SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
7 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
8 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
9 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
10 Act takes effect September 1, 2003.