

1-1 By: Chavez, et al. (Senate Sponsor - Lucio) H.B. No. 1653  
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 7, 2003;  
1-3 May 9, 2003, read first time and referred to Committee on  
1-4 International Relations and Trade; May 19, 2003, reported  
1-5 favorably by the following vote: Yeas 4, Nays 0; May 19, 2003, sent  
1-6 to printer.)

1-7 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
1-8 AN ACT

1-9 relating to approval of the construction of a bridge over the Rio  
1-10 Grande.

1-11 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-12 SECTION 1. Section 201.612, Transportation Code, is amended  
1-13 by amending Subsections (a) and (b) and adding Subsection (g) to  
1-14 read as follows:

1-15 (a) A political subdivision or private entity authorized to  
1-16 construct or finance the construction of a bridge over the Rio  
1-17 Grande:

1-18 (1) must obtain approval from the commission and from  
1-19 the United States under Subchapter IV, Chapter 11, Title 33, United  
1-20 States Code, for the construction of the bridge [~~before requesting~~  
1-21 ~~approval from the United States under Subchapter IV, Chapter 11,~~  
1-22 ~~Title 33, United States Code~~]; and

1-23 (2) shall submit to the commission a report that  
1-24 details the feasibility, location, economic effect, and  
1-25 environmental impact of the bridge and any other information the  
1-26 commission by rule may require.

1-27 (b) The [~~To the maximum extent practicable, the~~] department  
1-28 shall:

1-29 (1) to the maximum extent practicable, implement the  
1-30 approval process in the manner least burdensome to an applicant;  
1-31 and

1-32 (2) allow an applicant to concurrently seek approval  
1-33 from the commission and the United States under Subsection (a)(1).

1-34 (g) If the commission does not approve construction of the  
1-35 bridge, the applicant shall withdraw the request for approval from  
1-36 the United States.

1-37 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
1-38 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
1-39 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
1-40 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
1-41 Act takes effect September 1, 2003.

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