

By: Lindsay

S.B. No. 716

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to causeways, bridges, tunnels, turnpikes, and highways in certain counties bordering the Gulf of Mexico and in adjacent counties.

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

SECTION 1. Subsection (a), Section 284.002, Transportation Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) Except as provided by Subsection (b), this chapter applies only to a county that:

(1) has a population of 50,000 or more and borders the Gulf of Mexico or a bay or inlet opening into the gulf;

(2) has a population of 1.5 million or more; ~~[or]~~

(3) is adjacent to a county that has a population of 1.5 million or more; or

(4) borders the United Mexican States.

SECTION 2. Section 284.003, Transportation Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 284.003. PROJECT AUTHORIZED; CONSTRUCTION, OPERATION, AND COST. A county, acting through the commissioners court of the county, or a local government corporation, without state approval, supervision, or regulation, may:

(1) construct, acquire, improve, operate, maintain, or pool a project located:

(A) exclusively in the county;

1 (B) [~~or~~] in the county and outside the county; or
2 (C) in one or more counties adjacent to the
3 county;

4 (2) issue tax bonds, revenue bonds, or combination tax
5 and revenue bonds to pay the cost of the construction, acquisition,
6 or improvement of a project; or

7 (3) impose tolls or charges as otherwise authorized by
8 this chapter.

9 SECTION 3. Subsection (d), Section 284.067, Transportation
10 Code, is amended to read as follows:

11 (d) Payment of the purchase price, award, or other cost of
12 the project may be on the terms to which the commissioners courts of
13 the county issuing the bonds and the other county or counties agree.
14 Proceeds from bonds issued under this chapter may be used to pay a
15 cost incurred under this section.

16 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
17 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
18 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
19 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
20 Act takes effect September 1, 2003.