

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; or

9 (4) construct a bridge over a deep water navigation
10 channel if the bridge does not hinder maritime transportation.

11 SECTION 3. Section 284.067, Transportation Code, is amended
12 by amending Subsection (d) and adding Subsection (e) to read as
13 follows:

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

19 (e) Two-tenths of one percent of the toll revenue shall be
20 shared equally between the permanent school fund and the General
21 Land Office. The General Land Office shall use its share for the
22 acquisition of real property in a natural state in the county of the
23 project. The acquired land shall be maintained in a natural state.

24 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
25 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
26 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
27 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this

1 Act takes effect September 1, 2003.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 716 passed the Senate on March 26, 2003, by the following vote: Yeas 30, Nays 0; and that the Senate concurred in House amendments on May 27, 2003, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 716 passed the House, with amendments, on April 25, 2003, by the following vote: Yeas 146, Nays 0, two present not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

Approved:

Date

Governor