

By: Van Arsdale

H.B. No. 99

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the conversion of certain nontoll state highways to toll highways.

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

SECTION 1. Section 284.009, Transportation Code, is amended by reenacting and amending Subsection (a), as added by Section 1, Chapter 953, Acts of the 78th Legislature, Regular Session, 2003, and Section 7.01, Chapter 1325, Acts of the 78th Legislature, Regular Session, 2003, and by adding Subsection (j) to read as follows:

(a) Except as provided by Subsection (j), the ~~[The]~~ commission may convey a nontoll state highway or a segment of a nontoll state highway, including real property acquired to construct or operate the highway, to (i) a county or a toll road authority in the county in which the state highway or segment is located, or (ii) a county or toll road authority in a county adjacent to the county in which the highway or segment is located if the county or toll road authority in the county in which the segment or highway is located approves the conveyance, for operation and maintenance as a project under this chapter, if:

(1) the commission determines that the proposed conveyance will improve overall mobility in the region or is the most feasible and economic means of accomplishing necessary improvements to the highway;

1           (2) any funds paid by the department for the  
2 construction, maintenance, and operation of the conveyed highway  
3 are repaid to the department; and

4           (3) the county or toll road authority agrees to assume  
5 all liability and responsibility for the maintenance and operation  
6 of the conveyed highway on its conveyance.

7           (j) The commission may not convey to a county under this  
8 section any segment of State Highway 249 in Harris County.

9           SECTION 2. Section 362.0041(d), Transportation Code, is  
10 amended to read as follows:

11           (d) The commission may not convert to a toll facility:

12                 (1) the Queen Isabella Causeway in Cameron County; or

13                 (2) any segment of State Highway 249 in Harris County

14 [~~to a toll facility~~].

15           SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
16 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
17 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
18 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
19 Act takes effect September 1, 2005.