

By: Edwards

H.B. No. 922

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to bridge improvement and safety.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter H, Chapter 201, Transportation Code, is amended by adding Section 201.617 to read as follows:

Sec. 201.617. BRIDGE SAFETY. In allocating state and federal funds for highway improvement projects, the department shall give the highest priority to a project for the rehabilitation or replacement of a bridge that has failed to meet state or federal safety requirements.

SECTION 2. (a) An interim committee is created to study the administration of bridge safety by the Texas Department of Transportation and to monitor progress by the Texas Department of Transportation in repairing and improving bridges that have failed to meet state or federal safety requirements.

(b) The committee consists of six members, of whom:

(1) three shall be appointed by the lieutenant governor from the members of the Senate Committee on Infrastructure Development and Security; and

(2) three shall be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives from the members of the House Committee on Transportation.

(c) The presiding officers appointing the members of the committee shall each appoint a presiding officer from among the

1 members appointed to the committee.

2 (d) The committee shall convene at the call of the two  
3 presiding officers.

4 (e) Not later than September 1, 2006, the committee shall  
5 report the committee's findings and recommendations to the  
6 lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of representatives,  
7 and the members of the 79th Legislature.

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