

By: Krusee

H.B. No. 2656

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the state aviation facilities.

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

SECTION 1. Section 21.069, Transportation Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 21.069. STATE AIRPORT IN CENTRAL TEXAS. (a) The department [~~, in consultation with the State Aircraft Pooling Board,~~] shall establish a state airport in Central Texas that is open to the general public.

(b) In determining an appropriate location for the airport, the department shall consider:

(1) the convenience, comfort, and accommodation of air traffic flying into and departing from the Central Texas region, including persons traveling for business and commercial reasons, government officials, and tourists; and

(2) the safe operation of aircraft flying into and departing from the Central Texas region.

(c) In determining an appropriate location for the airport, the department may not consider:

(1) any property in a municipality without the approval of the governing body of the municipality;

(2) any property outside of a municipality without the approval of the commissioners court of the county in which the property is located; or

1 (3) the property in Austin, Texas, identified as
2 Robert Mueller Airport.

3 (d) The commission may acquire by the exercise of eminent
4 domain property that the commission considers necessary to enable
5 the department to meet its responsibilities under this section.

6 (e) The department may utilize only federal matching funds,
7 federal grants, in-kind contributions, private sector funds,
8 nonprofit grants, department funds appropriated for aviation
9 services, and local government funding for the establishment of
10 this facility.

11 (f) The department shall have all the powers necessary or
12 appropriate to implement this section, including all the powers
13 granted to a local government under Chapters 22, 23, and 25.

14 (g) Upon completion of the construction of the airport, the
15 department shall contract with a private entity or a county or
16 municipality for the long-term management, operation, and
17 maintenance of the facility. Such contract shall comply with all
18 applicable Federal Aviation Agency regulations relating to the
19 management, operation, and maintenance of an airport.

20 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
21 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
22 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
23 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
24 Act takes effect September 1, 2005.