

By: Branch

H.B. No. 2683

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to allowing the Texas Department of Transportation to make
3 grants to a county or municipality for recreational trails.

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

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

7 Sec. 201.617. GRANTS FOR RECREATIONAL TRAILS. (a) To
8 enhance transportation options and provide health benefits to the
9 residents of this state, the department shall implement a program
10 under which the department grants money to counties and
11 municipalities for projects involving the construction,
12 maintenance, or improvement of recreational trails for use by
13 pedestrians or bicyclists.

14 (b) In determining whether to award a grant under this
15 section, the department shall consider:

16 (1) the amount of money committed by the municipality
17 or county for the project as well as any private donations for the
18 project;

19 (2) the economic benefits that the project would
20 provide to the state and region and to the municipality or county;
21 and

22 (3) the extent to which the project would promote, and
23 the effect the project would have on, different methods of
24 transportation.

1 (c) The department shall give priority to making grants
2 under this section for projects that interconnect with other
3 existing recreational trails and allow for access to major
4 recreational, educational, medical, commercial, or cultural
5 facilities.

6 (d) The department shall adopt rules as necessary to
7 implement the program authorized by this section.

8 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2005.