

By: Lucio

S.B. No. 278

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the provision of financial assistance to counties for roadway projects serving border colonias.

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

SECTION 1. Section 1403.002, Government Code, is amended by adding Subsection (g) to read as follows:

(g) In determining the counties and the colonia access roadway projects that are to receive financial assistance and the amount of assistance given to a county or project, the commission shall prioritize projects that are located in communities with the greatest need.

SECTION 2. Section 1403.003, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 1403.003. ADMINISTRATION BY TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION [~~SET-ASIDE FOR COLONIAS LOCATED IN RURAL BORDER COUNTIES~~]. (a) In this section:

(1) "Border colonia" means a border colonia as defined by commission rule under Section 1403.002.

(2) "Department [~~Rural border county~~]" means the Texas Department of Transportation [~~a county that:~~

~~[(A) has a population of less than 55,000; and~~

~~[(B) is adjacent to an international border.~~

~~[(3) "Set-aside" means a reservation of a portion of the proceeds from the sale of general obligation bonds and notes~~

1 ~~under this chapter to provide financial assistance for specific~~
2 ~~colonia access roadway projects proposed by rural border counties].~~

3 (b) The department shall use existing funds to manage
4 colonia access roadway projects serving border colonias that
5 receive financial assistance under Section 1403.002. The
6 department shall provide consulting services to counties receiving
7 financial assistance for colonia access roadway projects on:

8 (1) the planning, designing, and constructing of
9 roadways; or

10 (2) any other function necessary to implement the
11 projects [~~The authority shall set aside an amount equal to 10~~
12 ~~percent of the proceeds from each sale of general obligation bonds~~
13 ~~and notes under this chapter to provide financial assistance for~~
14 ~~colonia access roadway projects designed to pave roads serving~~
15 ~~border colonias located in rural border counties)].~~

16 (c) The department may enter into an interagency agreement
17 with the Texas A&M University Center for Housing and Urban
18 Development and the Texas A&M University College of Architecture to
19 assist the department in providing consulting services under
20 Subsection (b) [~~authority, as directed by the Texas Department of~~
21 ~~Transportation, shall provide a grant from the set-aside on a~~
22 ~~priority basis to a rural border county that proposes to pave for~~
23 ~~the first time a road serving a border colonia located in that~~
24 ~~county)].~~

25 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2005.