

1-1 By: Staples S.B. No. 1713
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed March 11, 2005; March 30, 2005, read
1-3 first time and referred to Committee on Transportation and Homeland
1-4 Security; April 25, 2005, reported favorably by the following
1-5 vote: Yeas 6, Nays 0; April 25, 2005, sent to printer.)

1-6 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-7 AN ACT

1-8 relating to the creation of a study commission on transportation
1-9 financing.

1-10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-11 SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 162, Tax Code, is amended
1-12 by adding Section 162.017 to read as follows:

1-13 Sec. 162.017. STUDY COMMISSION ON TRANSPORTATION
1-14 FINANCING. (a) The Study Commission on Transportation Financing
1-15 is created as provided by this section.

1-16 (b) The commission is composed of nine members as follows:

1-17 (1) three members of the general public appointed by
1-18 the governor;

1-19 (2) three members appointed by the lieutenant
1-20 governor, of which one is a member of the general public and two are
1-21 members of the senate; and

1-22 (3) three members appointed by the speaker of the
1-23 house of representatives, of which one is a member of the general
1-24 public and two are members of the house.

1-25 (c) Each member of the commission serves at the will of the
1-26 person who appointed the member.

1-27 (d) The lieutenant governor shall designate one of the
1-28 appointed senators and the speaker of the house of representatives
1-29 shall designate one of the appointed house members to serve
1-30 together as joint presiding officers of the commission.

1-31 (e) A member of the commission is not entitled to receive
1-32 compensation for service on the commission but is entitled to
1-33 reimbursement of the travel expenses incurred by the member while
1-34 conducting the business of the commission, as provided by the
1-35 General Appropriations Act.

1-36 (f) The commission may accept gifts and grants from any
1-37 source to be used to carry out a function of the commission.

1-38 (g) The commission shall conduct public hearings and study
1-39 public policy implications relating to the financing of
1-40 transportation projects.

1-41 (h) The study shall include:

1-42 (1) a review of the state motor fuels tax in order to:

1-43 (A) evaluate the state motor fuels tax, including
1-44 its efficacy in funding the transportation needs of this state; and

1-45 (B) examine and evaluate the expenditure of funds
1-46 from the state highway fund;

1-47 (2) a review of the current sources for funding rail
1-48 transportation projects in order to:

1-49 (A) evaluate the options for rail funding,
1-50 including their efficacy in funding identified rail needs of the
1-51 state; and

1-52 (B) identify other possible sources for funding;
1-53 and

1-54 (3) a review of all other financing options for all
1-55 modes of transportation, including but not limited to:

1-56 (A) motor vehicle user fees and fines;

1-57 (B) bonding; and

1-58 (C) other debt financing methods.

1-59 (i) Not later than December 1, 2006, the commission shall
1-60 issue a report summarizing:

1-61 (1) any hearings conducted by the commission;

1-62 (2) any studies conducted by the commission;

1-63 (3) any legislation proposed by the commission; and

1-64 (4) any other findings and recommendations of the

2-1 commission.

2-2 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
2-3 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
2-4 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
2-5 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
2-6 Act takes effect September 1, 2005.

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