

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

S.B. 669  
By: Watson  
Transportation  
Committee Report (Amended)

### **BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE**

Currently, many Texas cities restrict or prohibit the construction of billboards. However, municipal restrictions do not apply in rural and unincorporated areas.

S.B. 669 prohibits the construction of billboards on State Highway 71 between the western city limits of Austin and State Highway 16. This is a scenic route through the Hill Country and this bill would preserve those vistas.

### **RULEMAKING AUTHORITY**

It is the committee's opinion that this bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, department, agency, or institution.

### **ANALYSIS**

SB 669 prohibits a person from erecting an off-premise sign that is adjacent to and visible from State Highway 71 between the western city limits of the city of Austin and State Highway 16.

It also makes several non-substantive changes.

### **EFFECTIVE DATE**

September 1, 2007

### **EXPLANATION OF AMENDMENTS**

Committee Amendment #1 would require notification of landowners owning real property along a segment of public road affected by the bill in order for the bill to become effective. The notice must be published in a newspaper of general circulation and mailed, by certified mail, to each affected landowner by the county clerk of the county or counties in which a segment of public road affected by the bill is located. The notice must specify that the landowner's future right to lease the landowner's property for the purpose of erecting an off-premise sign will be terminated, unless the landowner notifies the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) that the landowner wants to exclude the landowner's property from application of the bill. The bill would become effective only after the appropriate county clerk of clerks have notified TxDOT that all affected landowners have been notified. In notifying TxDOT, the county clerk must provide a publisher's affidavit proving publication of the notice in the newspaper and an affidavit certifying the date the notice was mailed to landowners, along with a copy of the notice and a certified list of the landowners to whom the notice was mailed. An affected landowner can exclude the landowner's property from application of the bill by sending a written notice to TxDOT by certified mail within one year of the date that TxDOT receives notification that notices were mailed to landowners. The landowner's exclusion becomes effective when the landowner's notice is received by TxDOT.