

By: Bolton

H.B. No. 2631

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the conversion of a nontolled state highway or segment
3 of the state highway system to a toll project.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 228.201(a), Transportation Code, is
6 amended to read as follows:

7 (a) The [~~Except as provided by Section 228.2015, the~~]
8 department may not operate a nontolled state highway or a segment of
9 a nontolled state highway as a toll project, and may not transfer a
10 highway or segment to another entity for operation as a toll
11 project, unless:

12 (1) the commission by order designated the highway or
13 segment as a toll project before the contract to construct the
14 highway or segment was awarded;

15 (2) the highway or segment was open to traffic as a
16 turnpike project on or before September 1, 2005;

17 (3) the project was designated as a toll project in a
18 plan or program of a metropolitan planning organization on or
19 before September 1, 2005;

20 (4) [~~the highway or segment is reconstructed so that~~
21 ~~the number of nontolled lanes on the highway or segment is greater~~
22 ~~than or equal to the number in existence before the reconstruction,~~

23 [~~(5) a facility is constructed adjacent to the highway~~
24 ~~or segment so that the number of nontolled lanes on the converted~~

1 ~~highway or segment and the adjacent facility together is greater~~
2 ~~than or equal to the number in existence on the converted highway or~~
3 ~~segment before the conversion;~~

4 ~~(6)~~ subject to Subsection (b), the highway or
5 segment was open to traffic as a high-occupancy vehicle lane on May
6 1, 2005; or

7 (5) ~~(7)~~ the commission converts the highway or
8 segment to a toll facility by:

9 (A) making the determination required by Section
10 228.202;

11 (B) conducting the hearing required by Section
12 228.203; and

13 (C) obtaining county and voter approval as
14 required by Sections 228.207 and 228.208.

15 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
16 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
17 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
18 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
19 Act takes effect September 1, 2007.