

By: Wentworth

S.B. No. 132

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the establishment and operation of a motor bus-only lane program.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 455, Transportation Code, is amended by adding Section 455.006 to read as follows:

Sec. 455.006. MOTOR BUS-ONLY LANE PROGRAM. (a) The department, in consultation with the Department of Public Safety and in conjunction with the metropolitan rapid transit authorities, regional transportation authorities, municipal transit authorities, county mass transit authorities, and municipal mass transportation departments in this state and the appropriate counties and municipalities, shall establish and operate a motor bus-only lane program for highways that are part of the state highway system and have shoulders of sufficient width.

(b) The program shall:

(1) provide for the use by motor buses of highway shoulders as a low-speed bypass of congested highway lanes;

(2) gain local operational experience with the conversion of existing highway shoulders to motor bus-only lanes during peak traffic periods; and

(3) take into consideration the following:

(A) safety;

(B) travel time and reliability;

- (C) driver and passenger perceptions;
- (D) level of service and maintenance; and
- (E) capital improvements.

(c) The department shall initiate the motor bus-only lane program as soon as practicable and not later than December 31, 2007, submit a report to the legislature regarding the department's progress in establishing and operating the program.

(d) Not later than December 31, 2008, and as part of the review of the department in 2009 by the Sunset Advisory Commission under Chapter 325, Government Code (Texas Sunset Act), the department shall submit a final report to the legislature relating to the motor bus-only lane program.

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