

By: Farabee

H.B. No. 605

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to mileage reimbursement for state employees.

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

SECTION 1. Sections 660.043(a), (b), and (c), Government Code, are amended to read as follows:

(a) The number of miles traveled that are eligible for reimbursement under this subchapter may not exceed the number of miles of the most cost-effective reasonably safe route between the origin of the state employee's travel and the final duty point of the state employee. If a state employee conducts official state business at duty points between the origin of the state employee's travel and the final duty point, the most cost-effective reasonably safe route between the origin and the final duty point shall include the intermediate duty points.

(b) In determining the most cost-effective reasonably safe route for purposes [~~For the purpose~~] of Subsection (a), a state agency may consider:

(1) the route that provides the shortest distance [~~route~~] between the origin of the state employee's travel and the final duty point;

(2) the route that provides the quickest drive time between the origin of the state employee's travel and the final duty point; and

(3) the route that provides the safest road conditions

1 between the origin of the state employee's travel and the final duty
2 point [~~two points is presumed to be the most cost-effective route.~~
3 ~~A longer route may be considered the most cost-effective route only~~
4 ~~if:~~

5 ~~(1) the voucher states that the longer route is more~~
6 ~~cost effective;~~

7 ~~(2) the voucher provides a reasonable justification~~
8 ~~for that statement; and~~

9 ~~(3) the statement and justification are made by the~~
10 ~~chief administrator of the state agency making the reimbursement or~~
11 ~~by the chief administrator's designee].~~

12 (c) The number of miles traveled that are eligible for
13 reimbursement under this subchapter may be determined by an
14 employee's vehicle odometer reading or by a readily available
15 electronic mapping service [~~comptroller shall periodically issue~~
16 ~~and update a mileage guide that includes a chart showing the number~~
17 ~~of miles for the shortest route between points. The guide also may~~
18 ~~include a chart showing the number of miles for longer routes~~
19 ~~between points. Farm-to-market and ranch-to-market roads shall be~~
20 ~~considered when determining the routings between points in this~~
21 ~~state. The guide may be electronic or printed, or both].~~

22 SECTION 2. Section 660.202(c), Government Code, is amended
23 to read as follows:

24 (c) A member of the legislature is entitled to be reimbursed
25 for the member's use of personally owned or leased motor vehicles
26 and the use of rented or public conveyances at the same rate as is
27 provided in the General Appropriations Act for state employees.

1 except that the member may only receive mileage reimbursement for
2 the most cost-effective route between the origin of the member's
3 travel and the final duty point.

4 SECTION 3. Section 660.043(d), Government Code, is
5 repealed.

6 SECTION 4. Section 660.043, Government Code, as amended by
7 this Act, applies only to the determination of reimbursable mileage
8 for state employee travel occurring on or after January 1, 2010.

9 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.