

By: Farabee

H.B. No. 605

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to state employees mileage reimbursement.

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) For the purpose of Subsection (a), the shortest route between two points is presumed to be the most cost-effective reasonably safe route. A longer route may be considered the most cost-effective reasonably safe route only if:

(1) the voucher states that the longer route is more cost effective or appreciably safer;

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

(3) the statement and justification are made by the chief administrator of the state agency making the reimbursement or

1 by the chief administrator's designee.

2 (c) The comptroller shall periodically issue and update a  
3 mileage guide that includes a chart showing the number of miles for  
4 the shortest route between points. The guide also may include a  
5 chart showing the number of miles for longer routes between points.  
6 Farm-to-market and ranch-to-market roads and safety considerations  
7 such as the potential for wildlife vehicle collisions on rural  
8 roads shall be considered when determining the routings between  
9 points in this state. The guide may be electronic or printed, or  
10 both.

11 SECTION 2. Not later than December 1, 2009, the comptroller  
12 of public accounts of the State of Texas shall update the mileage  
13 guide as necessary to comply with Section 660.043, Government Code,  
14 as amended by this Act.

15 SECTION 3. Section 660.043, Government Code, as amended by  
16 this Act, applies only to the determination of reimbursable mileage  
17 for travel occurring on or after January 1, 2010.

18 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.