

1-1 By: Farabee (Senate Sponsor - Estes) H.B. No. 605
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House March 30, 2009;
1-3 April 27, 2009, read first time and referred to Committee on
1-4 Government Organization; May 20, 2009, reported favorably by the
1-5 following vote: Yeas 6, Nays 0; May 20, 2009, sent to printer.)

1-6 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-7 AN ACT

1-8 relating to mileage reimbursement for state employees.

1-9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-10 SECTION 1. Sections 660.043(a), (b), and (c), Government
1-11 Code, are amended to read as follows:

1-12 (a) The number of miles traveled that are eligible for
1-13 reimbursement under this subchapter may not exceed the number of
1-14 miles of the most cost-effective reasonably safe route between the
1-15 origin of the state employee's travel and the final duty point of
1-16 the state employee. If a state employee conducts official state
1-17 business at duty points between the origin of the state employee's
1-18 travel and the final duty point, the most cost-effective reasonably
1-19 safe route between the origin and the final duty point shall include
1-20 the intermediate duty points.

1-21 (b) In determining the most cost-effective reasonably safe
1-22 route for purposes [~~For the purpose~~] of Subsection (a), a state
1-23 agency may consider:

1-24 (1) the route that provides the shortest distance
1-25 [route] between the origin of the state employee's travel and the
1-26 final duty point;

1-27 (2) the route that provides the quickest drive time
1-28 between the origin of the state employee's travel and the final duty
1-29 point; and

1-30 (3) the route that provides the safest road conditions
1-31 between the origin of the state employee's travel and the final duty
1-32 point [~~two points is presumed to be the most cost-effective route.~~
1-33 ~~A longer route may be considered the most cost-effective route only~~
1-34 ~~if:~~

1-35 [~~(1) the voucher states that the longer route is more~~
1-36 ~~cost effective;~~

1-37 [~~(2) the voucher provides a reasonable justification~~
1-38 ~~for that statement; and~~

1-39 [~~(3) the statement and justification are made by the~~
1-40 ~~chief administrator of the state agency making the reimbursement or~~
1-41 ~~by the chief administrator's designee].~~

1-42 (c) The number of miles traveled that are eligible for
1-43 reimbursement under this subchapter may be determined by an
1-44 employee's vehicle odometer reading or by a readily available
1-45 electronic mapping service [~~comptroller shall periodically issue~~
1-46 ~~and update a mileage guide that includes a chart showing the number~~
1-47 ~~of miles for the shortest route between points. The guide also may~~
1-48 ~~include a chart showing the number of miles for longer routes~~
1-49 ~~between points. Farm-to-market and ranch-to-market roads shall be~~
1-50 ~~considered when determining the routings between points in this~~
1-51 ~~state. The guide may be electronic or printed, or both].~~

1-52 SECTION 2. Section 660.202(c), Government Code, is amended
1-53 to read as follows:

1-54 (c) A member of the legislature is entitled to be reimbursed
1-55 for the member's use of personally owned or leased motor vehicles
1-56 and the use of rented or public conveyances at the same rate as is
1-57 provided in the General Appropriations Act for state employees,
1-58 except that the member may only receive mileage reimbursement for
1-59 the most cost-effective route between the origin of the member's
1-60 travel and the final duty point.

1-61 SECTION 3. Section 660.043(d), Government Code, is
1-62 repealed.

1-63 SECTION 4. Section 660.043, Government Code, as amended by
1-64 this Act, applies only to the determination of reimbursable mileage

2-1 for state employee travel occurring on or after January 1, 2010.
2-2 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.

2-3

* * * * *