

By: Coleman

H.B. No. 4514

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to requiring the Texas Department of Transportation to
3 demonstrate that alternatives to toll roads have been considered.

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

5 SECTION 1. Subchapter H, Chapter 201, Transportation Code,
6 is amended by adding Section 201.6041 to read as follows:

7 Before the department proceeds with a toll highway project,
8 the department must demonstrate to the legislature's satisfaction
9 that it conducted a full study of toll and non-tolled highway
10 alternatives, among other alternatives, in strict accord with
11 National Environment Policy Act (42 U.S.C. Section 4321 et seq.)
12 and implementing federal regulations, and with analysis of data and
13 information pursuant to the federal Data Quality Act (67 F.R.
14 8452).

15 SECTION 2. Prior to proceeding with a toll highway project,
16 the department must also demonstrate to the legislature's
17 satisfaction that it has afforded meaningful involvement to, and
18 given consideration to input from, local elected officials and the
19 public, and that the selected toll project is the most cost
20 effective and least environmentally harmful alternative.