

By: Carona

S.B. No. 1570

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the facilitation, analysis, and implementation of high-speed passenger rail in this state.

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

SECTION 1. Section 91.001, Transportation Code, is amended by adding Subdivision (3-a) to read as follows:

(3-a) "High-speed rail" means passenger rail service capable of operating at speeds of more than 200 miles per hour.

SECTION 2. Chapter 91, Transportation Code, is amended by adding Subchapter G to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER G. HIGH-SPEED RAIL FACILITATION AND ANALYSIS

Sec. 91.121. TEXAS HIGH-SPEED RAIL CORPORATION. (a) The commission shall create a corporation under Subchapter B, Chapter 431, for purposes of this subchapter.

(b) The corporation is not subject to the limitation provided by Section 431.072.

(c) The corporation must have a board of seven members, of whom:

(1) three are appointed by the commission; and

(2) four are appointed by the commission from a list of candidates submitted by the South Central High Speed Rail and Transportation Authority, Incorporated, a local government corporation organized under Subchapter D, Chapter 431.

Sec. 91.122. DEVELOPMENT OF SYSTEM. Subject to the

1 commission's oversight and control under Chapter 431, the
2 commission may direct the corporation created under Section 91.121
3 to:

4 (1) plan and develop a high-speed rail facility under
5 the authority in this chapter;

6 (2) solicit federal funding to be allocated to the
7 department for the purposes of this subchapter;

8 (3) coordinate with federal planners and
9 representatives from adjacent states for the interconnectivity of
10 high-speed rail systems in this state with systems developed in
11 federally designated high-speed rail corridors in other states;

12 (4) represent and negotiate on behalf of this state
13 for the interconnectivity of high-speed rail with existing and
14 planned transportation systems, including airports, seaports,
15 transit systems, commuter rail systems, and highways; and

16 (5) coordinate with federal transportation planners
17 and officials at the United States Department of Defense or its
18 successor agency regarding issues related to the provision of
19 connectivity to military installations in this state.

20 Sec. 91.123. SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS. A high-speed rail system
21 developed under this subchapter must:

22 (1) enhance connectivity to this state's largest
23 airports;

24 (2) enhance connectivity for and ease of passenger
25 transport to and from military installations located in this state;
26 and

27 (3) be developed in collaboration with high-speed rail

1 projects in other areas of the United States to ensure
2 interconnectivity with other federally designated high-speed rail
3 corridors.

4 Sec. 91.124. REPORTS. The department annually shall submit
5 a report regarding the activities of the department and the
6 corporation under this subchapter to:

7 (1) the governor;

8 (2) the lieutenant governor;

9 (3) the speaker of the house of representatives; and

10 (4) the standing committee of each house of the
11 legislature that has primary jurisdiction over rail transportation
12 issues.

13 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
14 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
15 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
16 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
17 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.