

By: Paxton

H.B. No. 1636

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to certain financial requirements of regional tollway authorities.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 366, Transportation Code, is amended by adding Sections 366.039 and 366.040 to read as follows:

Sec. 366.039. ANNUAL AUDIT. The financial transactions of an authority created under this chapter are subject to annual financial audit by the state auditor in accordance with Chapter 321, Government Code.

Sec. 366.040. ELECTRONIC CHECKING ACCOUNT TRANSACTION REGISTER. (a) Except as provided by Subsection (e), an authority shall designate a person to maintain an electronic checking account transaction register for the authority's checking account.

The register must:

(1) be in a searchable, electronic spreadsheet format;

and

(2) be available without a fee for viewing and downloading by the public at all times on the authority's Internet website.

(b) The electronic checking account transaction register must include for each expense transaction from the authority's account:

- 1           (1) the transaction amount;  
2           (2) the name of the payee; and  
3           (3) a statement describing the purpose of the  
4 expenditure.

5           (c) An authority may not include in the authority's  
6 electronic checking account transaction register a check issued to  
7 an authority employee in payment of salary, wages, or an employment  
8 stipend.

9           (d) An authority shall:

10           (1) update the electronic checking account  
11 transaction register at least once each month, not later than the  
12 30th day after the closing date of the most recent monthly statement  
13 for the checking account; and

14           (2) maintain each transaction or listing in the  
15 electronic checking account transaction register on the  
16 authority's Internet website until the first anniversary of the  
17 date of the transaction or listing.

18           (e) The person designated to maintain the electronic  
19 checking account transaction register under Subsection (a) may  
20 consult with the comptroller in developing the register.

21           SECTION 2. A regional tollway authority required to  
22 maintain an electronic checking account transaction register under  
23 Section 366.040, Transportation Code, as added by this Act, shall  
24 make the register available for public viewing or downloading not  
25 later than January 1, 2012. The register must contain the  
26 information required by Section 366.040(b), Transportation Code,  
27 as added by this Act, with regard to each transaction occurring on

1 or after the effective date of this Act.

2 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2011.