

By: Turner of Collin

H.B. No. 24

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the legislative appropriations request process for the Texas Department of Transportation.

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

SECTION 1. Section 322.008, Government Code, is amended by adding Subsection (b-1) to read as follows:

(b-1) The director shall, as appropriate, organize the proposed appropriations for the Texas Department of Transportation in the manner and include the content required by Section 201.119, Transportation Code.

SECTION 2. Section 201.119, Transportation Code, is amended by adding Subsections (c), (d), (e), and (f) to read as follows:

(c) Notwithstanding Section 401.042, Government Code, the department shall develop a zero-based legislative appropriations request for every other state fiscal biennium that includes:

(1) a citation to:

(A) the department's authority under the Texas Constitution to operate; and

(B) the law specifying the department's purpose or mission; and

(2) a list of the department's requests for legislative appropriations organized by program or activity.

(d) For each specific program or activity described by Subsection (c)(2), the department must include:

1           (1) a line item that describes the program or activity  
2 and the purpose of the program or activity and cites the law that  
3 authorizes or requires the program or activity;

4           (2) a statement of the commission's goals for the  
5 program or activity;

6           (3) the appropriation made for the program or activity  
7 for the state fiscal biennium preceding the state fiscal biennium  
8 for which the requested appropriation is made;

9           (4) the amount of the requested appropriation;

10           (5) a statement that specifies whether the requested  
11 appropriation for the program or activity is from nondedicated  
12 money in the general revenue fund, dedicated money in the general  
13 revenue fund, the state highway fund, federal money, or another  
14 source;

15           (6) the number of full-time equivalent employees  
16 authorized for the program or activity for the state fiscal  
17 biennium preceding the state fiscal biennium for which the  
18 requested appropriation is made and the number of full-time  
19 equivalent employees for the biennium that would be authorized  
20 under the requested appropriation;

21           (7) a line item specifying the average compensation  
22 paid to employees administering the program or activity and a  
23 succinct notation justifying the staffing levels that would be  
24 authorized under the requested appropriation as specified in  
25 Subdivision (6);

26           (8) an estimate of the cost of any adverse effects that  
27 reasonably may be anticipated to result if the program or activity

1 were discontinued and a description of the methods by which the cost  
2 was estimated;

3 (9) an itemized account of expenditures required to  
4 maintain the minimum level of service required by law to be provided  
5 through the program or activity and a succinct statement of the  
6 quantity and quality of services provided at that minimum level;  
7 and

8 (10) an itemized account of expenditures required to  
9 maintain the current level of service provided through the program  
10 or activity and a succinct statement of the quantity and quality of  
11 services provided at the current level.

12 (e) Line items described by Subsection (d)(1) must be  
13 grouped together according to the level in the department's  
14 organizational structure at which budgetary authority for the  
15 program or activity represented by a line item is exercised by a  
16 manager who has authority over the department's finances.

17 (f) For each legislative appropriations request made in the  
18 manner required by Subsection (c), the commission shall develop and  
19 submit to the Legislative Budget Board a ranking of the programs and  
20 activities represented by the line items according to the relative  
21 importance of each program and activity to the overall goals and  
22 purposes of the department and the commission.

23 SECTION 3. (a) Section 322.008, Government Code, as  
24 amended by this Act, applies beginning with the general  
25 appropriations bill prepared for the 2016-2017 state fiscal  
26 biennium.

27 (b) The Texas Department of Transportation shall develop

1 and submit a zero-based legislative appropriations request as  
2 required by Section 201.119, Transportation Code, as amended by  
3 this Act, beginning with the department's legislative  
4 appropriations request for the 2016-2017 state fiscal biennium.

5 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect on the 91st day after the  
6 last day of the legislative session.