

By: Burkett

H.B. No. 2815

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to noise abatement procedures on certain turnpikes.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter E, Chapter 366, Transportation Code, is amended by adding Section 366.186 to read as follows:

Sec. 366.186. (a) An authority shall conduct a study and an analysis of traffic noise in a neighborhood on receipt of a petition requesting the study. The petition must:

(1) state the segment of a turnpike project that is at least 1,000 feet in length for which the study is sought; and

(2) be signed by at least 70 percent of the property owners who reside within 1,000 feet of the segment.

(b) Not later than six months after receiving a petition under Subsection (a), an authority shall publish the results of a study conducted under that subsection.

(c) An authority shall erect a sound barrier wall adjacent to a neighborhood if the study finds:

(1) an exterior noise decibel level of 60 dBA Leq or more on land used for a picnic area, a recreation area, a playground, an active sports area, a park, a residence, a motel, a hotel, a school, a church, a library, or a hospital; or

(2) an interior noise decibel level of 45 dBA Leq or more on land used for a residence, a motel, a hotel, a school, a church, a library, or a hospital.

1        (d) An authority required to erect a sound barrier under  
2 this section shall begin construction not later than the 30th day  
3 after the date the authority publishes the results of the study.

4        (e) A sound barrier erected under this section must be  
5 located immediately adjacent to the turnpike and must have a height  
6 of not less than 10 feet.

7        SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2013.