

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center

C.S.S.J.R. 62
By: Nichols
Transportation
4/16/2015
Committee Report (Substituted)

AUTHOR'S / SPONSOR'S STATEMENT OF INTENT

The State Highway Fund is the primary account from which the Texas Department of Transportation pays for improvements to the state highway system. The two largest sources of revenue are the state's motor fuels tax and federal funds. However, other transportation-related revenue sources are re-appropriated from the State Highway Fund for non-highway-related expenditures.

C.S.S.J.R. 62 enhances transparency in state budgeting by constitutionally dedicating the following transportation-related revenue sources to be used only for the acquisition of right-of-way and the construction and maintenance of public, non-tolled roads. These revenue sources include:

- overweight / oversize permit fees;
- payments received under a Comprehensive Development Agreement;
- sales or transfers of highway right-of-way or real property; and
- the sale of surplus vehicles.

If approved by the legislature, the proposed constitutional amendment would be considered by voters on November 3, 2015.

C.S.S.J.R. 62 proposes a constitutional amendment dedicating certain revenue sources to be used for the acquisition of rights-of-way for and the construction and maintenance of public roadways.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

This bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Article VIII, Texas Constitution, by adding Section 7-c, as follows:

Sec. 7-c. Requires that all net revenues remaining after payment of all refunds allowed by law and expenses of collection derived from the following sources, subject to legislative appropriation, allocation, and direction, be used only for the acquisition of rights-of-way for and the construction and maintenance of public roadways other than toll roads:

- (1) fees for permits that authorize a motor vehicle or combination of motor vehicles that exceed the weight or size limits allowed by this state to operate on a highway in this state;
- (2) payments received under a comprehensive development agreement for a toll project or system of the Texas Department of Transportation or its successor;
- (3) the sale or transfer of any interest in a highway right-of-way or real property acquired for a state highway purpose that is no longer needed for a state highway purpose; and
- (4) the sale of surplus motor vehicles by state agencies.

SECTION 2. Requires that the proposed constitutional amendment be submitted to the voters at an election to be held November 3, 2015. Sets forth the required language of the ballot.