

AN ACT

relating to the closing, abandoning, and vacating of a public road by a county; authorizing the imposition of a fee.

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

SECTION 1. Section 251.058, Transportation Code, is amended by amending Subsection (b) and adding Subsections (b-1), (d), (e), and (f) to read as follows:

(b) Title to a public road or portion of a public road that is closed, abandoned, and vacated to the center line of the road vests on the date the order is signed by the county judge in the owner of the property that abuts the portion of the road being closed, abandoned, and vacated. A copy of the order shall be filed in the deed records of the county and serves as the official instrument of conveyance from the county to the owner of the abutting property. The order shall:

(1) include the name of each property owner who receives a conveyance under this section;

(2) include the dimensions of the property being conveyed to each property owner; ~~and~~

(3) be indexed in the deed records of the county in a manner that describes:

(A) the county conveying the property as grantor;
and

(B) the property owner receiving the conveyance

as grantee; and

(4) if a public utility or common carrier that has the right of eminent domain is using the property being conveyed for a right-of-way or easement purpose, state that the title to the property is subject to the right-of-way or easement and the continued use by the public utility or common carrier of utility infrastructure in existence on the date the order is signed.

(b-1) Not later than the 30th day before the date an order is signed under Subsection (b), the commissioners court shall notify a public utility or common carrier described by Subsection (b)(4) of the proposal to close, abandon, and vacate the public road or portion of the public road.

(d) If a commissioners court closes, abandons, and vacates a public road or a portion of a public road at the request of an owner of property that abuts the portion of the road being closed, abandoned, and vacated, the commissioners court may require the owner to:

(1) pay all reasonable administrative costs incurred for processing the request and recording the order described by Subsection (b) in the county deed records; and

(2) reimburse the county for the market value of any property interest conveyed to the owner.

(e) A county by order of the commissioners court may adopt standard fees required to be paid under Subsection (d)(1) for processing a request and recording an order.

(f) For purposes of Subsection (b), "utility infrastructure" includes any facility owned by:

- 1 (1) an electric utility, as defined by Section 31.002,
2 Utilities Code;
3 (2) a gas utility, as defined by Section 101.003 or
4 121.001, Utilities Code;
5 (3) a telecommunications provider, as defined by
6 Section 51.002, Utilities Code; or
7 (4) a video service provider, as defined by Section
8 66.002, Utilities Code.

9 SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act to Section
10 251.058, Transportation Code, applies only to a request to close,
11 abandon, and vacate a public road or a portion of a public road that
12 is submitted to a commissioners court on or after the effective date
13 of this Act. A request submitted to a commissioners court before the
14 effective date of this Act is governed by the law in effect when the
15 request was submitted, and the former law is continued in effect for
16 that purpose.

17 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
18 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
19 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
20 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
21 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.

H.B. No. 1709

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 1709 was passed by the House on April 30, 2015, by the following vote: Yeas 138, Nays 1, 1 present, not voting; and that the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 1709 on May 22, 2015, by the following vote: Yeas 133, Nays 1, 2 present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 1709 was passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 21, 2015, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor