

By: Metcalf

H.B. No. 3591

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the allocation and use of certain funds for public transportation projects.

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

SECTION 1. Section 456.001, Transportation Code, is amended by adding Subdivision (2-a) to read as follows:

(2-a) "Direct recipient" means a municipality that:

(A) receives money from the United States or this state for public transportation through the department or the Federal Transit Administration or the administration's successor;
and

(B) is located in an urbanized area with a population of more than 200,000, according to the 2010 federal decennial census:

(i) that includes an urban transit district eligible to participate in the formula or discretionary program provided by this chapter but does not include a transit authority;
and

(ii) that is adjacent to an urbanized area with a population more than 4.9 million but less than 5 million, according to the 2010 federal decennial census.

SECTION 2. Section 456.006(a), Transportation Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) A designated recipient that is a rural or urban transit

1 district or municipal transit department or a direct recipient may
2 use money from the formula or discretionary program and any local
3 funds for any transit-related activity.

4 SECTION 3. Section 456.022, Transportation Code, is amended
5 to read as follows:

6 Sec. 456.022. FORMULA ALLOCATION. (a) The commission shall
7 adopt rules establishing a formula allocating funds among
8 individual eligible public transportation providers. The formula
9 may take into account a transportation provider's performance, the
10 number of its riders, the need of residents in its service area for
11 public transportation, population, population density, land area,
12 and other factors established by the commission.

13 (b) The department may contract with a direct recipient to
14 administer a portion of the funding awarded to an urban transit
15 district. The department will divide the funding allocated by
16 formula to the urbanized area in which the urban transit district is
17 located between the urban transit district and the direct
18 recipient, in the same ratio used by the Federal Transit
19 Administration for its most recent allocation of funds to that
20 urbanized area under Section 5307, Federal Transit Act.

21 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
22 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
23 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
24 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
25 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.