

By: Rodríguez

S.B. No. 731

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to funding for certain transportation infrastructure projects near the international border of this state; making an appropriation.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 201, Transportation Code, is amended by adding Subchapter Q to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER Q. COORDINATED BORDER INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT PROGRAM

Sec. 201.1001. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

(1) "Border region" means the portion of this state that is not more than 100 miles from the border between Texas and the United Mexican States.

(2) "Fund" means the coordinated border infrastructure fund established under this subchapter.

Sec. 201.1002. COORDINATED BORDER INFRASTRUCTURE FUND. (a) The coordinated border infrastructure fund is a special fund in the state treasury outside the general revenue fund. The fund consists of:

(1) funds appropriated by the legislature to the credit of the fund;

(2) any federal funds received by the state deposited to the credit of the fund;

(3) matching state funds in an amount required by federal law;

1           (4) money from any other available source; and  
2           (5) investment earnings on the money on deposit in the  
3 fund.

4           (b) The department shall administer the fund and money in  
5 the fund may be appropriated only for the purposes of this  
6 subchapter.

7           (c) Section 404.071, Government Code, does not apply to the  
8 fund.

9           Sec. 201.1003. GRANT PROGRAM. (a) The department shall  
10 develop policies and procedures to administer a program under this  
11 subchapter to make grants to entities described by Subsection (b)  
12 for:

13           (1) construction of and improvements to  
14 transportation and supporting infrastructure in the border region  
15 that facilitate cross-border motor vehicle, cargo, and rail  
16 movement, including highway and rail infrastructure and related  
17 public safety and safety enforcement facilities;

18           (2) operational improvements in the border region,  
19 including improvements relating to electronic data interchange and  
20 use of telecommunications, that expedite cross-border motor  
21 vehicle, cargo, and rail movement;

22           (3) modifications to regulatory procedures to  
23 expedite safe and efficient cross-border motor vehicle, cargo, and  
24 rail movement; or

25           (4) international coordination of transportation  
26 planning, programming, and border operation with the United Mexican  
27 States that relate to expediting cross-border motor vehicle, cargo,

1 and rail movement.

2 (b) The department may make a grant under the program only  
3 to:

4 (1) a governmental entity located in a department  
5 district that is adjacent to the border between this state and the  
6 United Mexican States; or

7 (2) a private entity that owns or operates an  
8 international port of entry between this state and the United  
9 Mexican States.

10 Sec. 201.1004. MATCHING FUNDS. To be eligible to receive a  
11 grant under the program, matching funds must be provided, from any  
12 source, in an amount determined by the department that is equal to  
13 at least 20 percent of the amount of the grant.

14 Sec. 201.1005. CERTAIN PROJECTS. An entity described by  
15 Section 201.1003(b) may construct a project in the United Mexican  
16 States using funds provided under this subchapter if:

17 (1) the project directly and predominantly  
18 facilitates cross-border motor vehicle and cargo movement at an  
19 international port of entry into the border region; and

20 (2) before receiving funds under this subchapter, the  
21 United Mexican States or a political subdivision of the United  
22 Mexican States that is responsible for the operation of the  
23 facility to be constructed provides satisfactory assurances to the  
24 department that any facility constructed with the funds will be:

25 (A) constructed in accordance with standards  
26 equivalent to applicable standards in this state; and

27 (B) properly maintained and used over the life

1 cycle of the facility for the purpose described in Subdivision (1).

2 Sec. 201.1006. RULES. The commission shall adopt rules to  
3 implement this subchapter.

4 SECTION 2. The amount of \$200 million is appropriated from  
5 the general revenue fund for deposit into the coordinated border  
6 infrastructure fund, as created by this Act, and the amount of \$200  
7 million is appropriated from the coordinated border infrastructure  
8 fund to the Texas Department of Transportation for the purpose of  
9 implementing Subchapter Q, Chapter 201, Transportation Code, as  
10 added by this Act, for the state fiscal biennium beginning  
11 September 1, 2015.

12 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.