

By: Watson

S.B. No. 1645

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to the approval by the Texas Department of Transportation
3 of certain transportation projects of a regional mobility
4 authority.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 370.038(a), Transportation Code, is
7 amended to read as follows:

8 (a) The commission shall adopt rules that:

9 (1) govern the creation of an authority;

10 (2) govern ~~[the commission's approval of a project~~
11 ~~under Section 370.187 and other]~~ commission approvals required by
12 this chapter;

13 (3) establish design and construction standards for a
14 transportation project that will connect with a highway in the
15 state highway system or a department rail facility;

16 (4) establish minimum audit and reporting
17 requirements and standards;

18 (5) establish minimum ethical standards for authority
19 directors and employees; and

20 (6) govern the authority of an authority to contract
21 with the United Mexican States or a state of the United Mexican
22 States.

23 SECTION 2. Section 370.187(b), Transportation Code, is
24 amended to read as follows:

1 (b) The commission by rule shall establish procedures and
2 criteria for the department's [~~an~~] approval of a transportation
3 project that will connect with a highway in the state highway system
4 or a department rail facility [~~under this section~~]. The procedures
5 and criteria [~~rules~~] must:

6 (1) be based on safety and operational considerations;
7 and

8 (2) require the department [~~commission~~] to consider a
9 request for project approval not later than the 60th day after the
10 date the department receives all information reasonably necessary
11 to review the request.

12 SECTION 3. Section 370.187(a), Transportation Code, is
13 repealed.

14 SECTION 4. Section 370.187, Transportation Code, as amended
15 by this Act, applies only to a request for approval of a project
16 that is submitted to the Texas Department of Transportation on or
17 after the effective date of this Act. A request for approval of a
18 project that is submitted before that date is governed by the law in
19 effect on the date the request for approval was submitted, and the
20 former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

21 SECTION 5. 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, 2017.