

By: Garcia

S.B. No. 2101

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the inspection, maintenance, and repair of guardrails by the Texas Department of Transportation.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter H, Chapter 201, Transportation Code, is amended by adding Section 201.623 to read as follows:

Sec. 201.623. GUARDRAIL INSPECTION, MAINTENANCE, AND REPAIR. (a) This section applies only to a guardrail constructed on a highway or right-of-way of a highway that is in the state highway system.

(b) The department shall conduct a study regarding the inspection, maintenance, and repair of guardrails. The study must include:

- (1) the number of guardrails;
- (2) the date of the last inspection of each guardrail;
- (3) the condition of each guardrail;
- (4) standards and best practices for the inspection, maintenance, and repair of guardrails;
- (5) the potential of each guardrail to be damaged by a motor vehicle;
- (6) whether each guardrail is designed to absorb the energy from a potential impact from a motor vehicle; and
- (7) an estimate of the amount of money and the number of full-time equivalent employees necessary to inspect and maintain

1 the guardrails.

2 (c) The department shall develop a plan to implement the  
3 study conducted under Subsection (b). The plan must:

4 (1) dedicate a portion of money from funds related to  
5 highway maintenance for the inspection, maintenance, and repair of  
6 guardrails;

7 (2) establish minimum standards based on the results  
8 of the study under which the department conducts inspection,  
9 maintenance, and repair of guardrails; and

10 (3) establish a schedule for the inspection,  
11 maintenance, and repair of guardrails.

12 (d) The department shall:

13 (1) update the plan developed under Subsection (c) as  
14 new information is made available regarding the inspection,  
15 maintenance, and repair of guardrails;

16 (2) maintain records of the inspection, maintenance,  
17 and repair of guardrails; and

18 (3) publish on the department's Internet website the  
19 records maintained by the department under Subdivision (2).

20 SECTION 2. Not later than January 1, 2019, the Texas  
21 Department of Transportation shall submit to the governor, the  
22 lieutenant governor, and the legislature a report on the results of  
23 the study conducted under Section 201.623(b), Transportation Code,  
24 as added by this Act.

25 SECTION 3. Not later than January 1, 2021, the Texas  
26 Department of Transportation shall submit to the governor, the  
27 lieutenant governor, and the legislature the plan required by

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1 Section 201.623(c), Transportation Code, as added by this Act.

2 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.