

By: Nichols

S.B. No. 2216

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to state fiscal matters regarding business and economic development.

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

ARTICLE 1. REDUCTION OF EXPENDITURES AND IMPOSITION OF CHARGES

GENERALLY

SECTION 1.01. This article applies to any state agency that receives an appropriation under Article VII of the General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 1.02. Notwithstanding any other statute of this state, each state agency to which this article applies is authorized to reduce or recover expenditures by:

(1) consolidating any reports or publications the agency is required to make and filing or delivering any of those reports or publications exclusively by electronic means;

(2) extending the effective period of any license, permit, or registration the agency grants or administers;

(3) entering into a contract with another governmental entity or with a private vendor to carry out any of the agency's duties;

(4) adopting additional eligibility requirements for persons who receive benefits under any law the agency administers to ensure that those benefits are received by the most deserving persons consistent with the purposes for which the benefits are

1 provided;

2 (5) providing that any communication between the
3 agency and another person and any document required to be delivered
4 to or by the agency, including any application, notice, billing
5 statement, receipt, or certificate, may be made or delivered by
6 e-mail or through the Internet; and

7 (6) adopting and collecting fees or charges to cover
8 any costs the agency incurs in performing its lawful functions.

9 ARTICLE 2. FISCAL MATTERS REGARDING TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS AND
10 ACTIVITIES

11 SECTION 2.01. Section 201.601, Transportation Code, is
12 amended by adding Subsection (g) to read as follows:

13 (g) The plan must include a component that evaluates future
14 federal funding opportunities for all modes of transportation and
15 identifies actions necessary to maximize the total amount of
16 federal funds received in the future for transportation
17 improvements in this state.

18 SECTION 2.02. Subchapter H, Chapter 201, Transportation
19 Code, is amended by adding Section 201.623 to read as follows:

20 Sec. 201.623. COOPERATION WITH LOCAL PLANNING ENTITIES TO
21 MAXIMIZE FEDERAL FUNDING FOR PROJECTS. The department shall work
22 and plan with local transportation planning entities to maximize
23 the amount of federal funding awarded for projects in this state by
24 identifying and pursuing projects that are eligible for federal
25 grant programs, including the scenic byways program.

26 ARTICLE 3. FISCAL MATTERS REGARDING PERMIT FEES

27 SECTION 3.01. Subchapter A, Chapter 623, Transportation

1 Code, is amended by adding Section 623.002 to read as follows:

2 Sec. 623.004. EVALUATION OF PERMIT FEES. (a) The
3 department shall evaluate highway use in this state by oversize or
4 overweight vehicles, calculate the cost of damage to highways in
5 this state caused by those vehicles, and determine whether:

6 (1) the fees charged for permits issued under this
7 chapter are adequate to offset the costs of damage to highways
8 caused by those vehicles and recommend any fee adjustments for the
9 permits to reflect the costs of damage to highways caused by those
10 vehicles; and

11 (2) vehicles currently exempt from permit
12 requirements under this chapter should be required to obtain a
13 permit to operate on roads or highways in this state.

14 (b) Not later than October 1 of each even-numbered year, the
15 department shall report its findings to:

16 (1) the Legislative Budget Board; and

17 (2) the governor.

18 SECTION 3.02. Section 623.077, Transportation Code, is
19 amended to read as follows:

20 Sec. 623.077. HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE FEE. (a) An applicant
21 for a permit under this subchapter, other than a permit under
22 Section 623.071(c)(3), must also pay a highway maintenance fee in
23 an amount determined according to vehicle weight and distance
24 traveled. [~~the following table:~~

Vehicle Weight in Pounds	Fee
[80,001 to 120,000	\$150
[120,001 to 160,000	\$225

1	[160,001 to 200,000	\$300
2	[200,001 and above	\$375]

3 (b) The department shall adopt rules to implement this
4 section and establish a schedule of rates, based on miles traveled,
5 for all vehicle weight categories that provides for an increase in
6 the rates according to the weight of a vehicle.

7 (c) The department shall send each fee collected under
8 Subsection (a) to the comptroller, who shall deposit:

9 (1) 90 percent of the fee to the credit of the state
10 highway fund; and

11 (2) 10 percent of the fee to the credit of the Texas
12 Department of Motor Vehicles fund.

13 SECTION 3.03. (a) The Texas Department of Transportation
14 shall adopt rules implementing Section 623.077, Transportation
15 Code, as amended by this article, not later than January 1, 2018.

16 (b) Section 623.077(a), Transportation Code, as amended by
17 this article, applies only to an application for a permit submitted
18 under Subchapter D, Chapter 623, Transportation Code, to the Texas
19 Department of Transportation on or after January 1, 2018. An
20 application for a permit submitted before January 1, 2018, is
21 governed by the law in effect on the date the application was
22 submitted, and that law is continued in effect for that purpose.

23 ARTICLE 4. ARTICLE VII EMPLOYEES

24 SECTION 4.01. An employee of an agency appropriated funds
25 under Article VII of the General Appropriations Act is not entitled
26 to an amount from the state for expenses, per diem, travel, or
27 salary that exceeds the amount authorized for those purposes by the

1 General Appropriations Act.

2 SECTION 2.02. An employee of an agency appropriated funds
3 under Article VII of the General Appropriations Act is not entitled
4 to an amount from the state for a salary, a salary supplement,
5 office expenses or reimbursement of office expenses, or travel that
6 exceeds the amount authorized for those purposes by the General
7 Appropriations Act.

8 Article 5. EFFECTIVE DATE

9 SECTION 5.4.01. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.