86R12244 AJZ-F

By:  Rosenthal H.B. No. 2306

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a study regarding the public health considerations of transportation planning.

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

SECTION 1.  INTERIM COMMITTEE; STUDY. (a) The joint interim committee on the public health considerations of transportation planning is established to study and review the methods the Texas Department of Transportation uses to integrate public health considerations into major highway project planning and general department policy.

(b)  The study must consider:

(1)  the extent to which the Texas Department of Transportation, when planning major highway projects, currently considers the effects increased traffic capacity may have on the health of adjacent populations; and

(2)  methods that may be employed by the Texas Department of Transportation to incorporate public health considerations into major highway project planning, including:

(A)  conducting health effects assessments to determine the effects a major highway project may have on the health of adjacent populations and publishing the resulting findings;

(B)  notifying affected communities when a major highway project may pose a public health risk to vulnerable populations concentrated in nearby areas, such as at schools; and

(C)  considering alternative multimodal transportation options to achieve the stated goal of a transportation improvement project.

(c)  The joint interim committee shall be composed of:

(1)  six members of the senate transportation committee appointed by the lieutenant governor;

(2)  three members of the house transportation committee appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives; and

(3)  three members of the house environmental regulation committee appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives.

(d)  The lieutenant governor and speaker of the house of representatives shall each designate a co-chair from among the committee members.

(e)  The joint interim committee has all other powers and duties provided to a special or select committee by the rules of the senate and house of representatives by Subchapter B, Chapter 301, Government Code, and by policies of the senate and house committees on administration.

(f)  Not later than January 1, 2021, the joint interim committee shall report the committee's findings and recommendations to the governor and the members of the legislature.

SECTION 2.  ABOLITION OF COMMITTEE. The committee is abolished and this Act expires January 12, 2021.

SECTION 3.  EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2019.