

By: Rosenthal

H.B. No. 2306

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to a study regarding the public health considerations of  
3 transportation planning.

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

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

11 (b) The study must consider:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

26 SECTION 3. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect  
27 immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members

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1 elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas  
2 Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for  
3 immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2019.