

By: Lucio

S.B. No. 1553

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the process for establishing speed limits on roads near certain schools.

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

SECTION 1. Section 545.355(b), Transportation Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b) The commissioners court of a county may declare a lower speed limit of not less than:

(1) 30 miles per hour on a county road or highway to which this section applies, if the commissioners court determines that the prima facie speed limit on the road or highway is unreasonable or unsafe; or

(2) 20 miles per hour:

(A) in a residence district, unless the roadway has been designated as a major thoroughfare by a city planning commission; or

(B) on a county road or highway to which this section applies that is located within 500 feet of an elementary, secondary, or open-enrollment charter school or an institution of higher education, if approved under Section 545.357.

SECTION 2. Section 545.357, Transportation Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 545.357. CONSIDERATION OF ~~[PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER]~~ SPEED LIMITS WHERE CERTAIN SCHOOLS ARE LOCATED. (a) The governing

body of a municipality in which a public or private elementary or secondary school, an open-enrollment charter school, or an institution of higher education [~~as defined by Section 61.003(8) or (15), Education Code,~~] is located shall, on request of the governing body of a school or institution of higher education, hold a public hearing at least once each calendar year to consider prima facie speed limits on a highway in the municipality, including a highway of the state highway system, near the school or institution of higher education.

(b) If a county road outside the state highway system is located within 500 feet of a public or private elementary or secondary school, an open-enrollment charter school, or an institution of higher education that is not in a municipality, the commissioners court of the county, on request of the governing body of a school or institution of higher education, shall hold a public hearing at least once each calendar year to consider the prima facie speed limit on the road near the school or institution of higher education.

(c) A municipal governing body or commissioners court, on request of the governing body of a school or institution of higher education, may hold one public hearing for all public and private elementary and secondary schools, open-enrollment charter schools, and institutions of higher education in its jurisdiction.

(d) The Texas Transportation Commission, on request of the governing body of a school or institution of higher education, shall hold a public hearing at least once each calendar year to consider prima facie speed limits on highways in the state highway

1 system that are near public or private elementary or secondary
2 schools, open-enrollment charter schools, or institutions of
3 higher education.

4 (e) After a public hearing held under this section, the
5 governing body of a school or institution of higher education may
6 request the commissioners court, municipal governing body, or Texas
7 Transportation Commission, as applicable, to conduct an
8 engineering and traffic investigation. On review of the results of
9 the investigation, the commissioners court, municipal governing
10 body, or Texas Transportation Commission has the same authority and
11 discretion to alter prima facie speed limits as provided by Section
12 545.353, 545.355, or 545.356, as applicable.

13 (f) In this section:

14 (1) "Governing body of a school or institution of
15 higher education" means:

16 (A) the board of trustees of the school district
17 in which a public elementary or secondary school is located;

18 (B) the governing body of a private elementary or
19 secondary school;

20 (C) the governing body of an open-enrollment
21 charter school; or

22 (D) the governing board of an institution of
23 higher education.

24 (2) "Institution of higher education" means an
25 institution of higher education or a private or independent
26 institution of higher education, as those terms are defined by
27 Section 61.003, Education Code.

1 (3) "Open-enrollment charter school" has the meaning
2 assigned by Section 5.001, Education Code.

3 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.