

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD
Austin, Texas

FISCAL NOTE, 86TH LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION

March 4, 2019

TO: Honorable Dustin Burrows, Chair, House Committee on Ways & Means

FROM: John McGeady, Assistant Director Sarah Keyton, Assistant Director
Legislative Budget Board

IN RE: HB916 by Guillen (Relating to the exemption of rural transit districts from motor fuel taxes.), **As Introduced**

Estimated Two-year Net Impact to General Revenue Related Funds for HB916, As Introduced: a negative impact of (\$87,000) through the biennium ending August 31, 2021.

General Revenue-Related Funds, Five-Year Impact:

Fiscal Year	Probable Net Positive/(Negative) Impact to General Revenue Related Funds
2020	(\$41,000)
2021	(\$46,000)
2022	(\$46,000)
2023	(\$47,000)
2024	(\$48,000)

All Funds, Five-Year Impact:

Fiscal Year	Probable Revenue Gain/(Loss) from <i>General Revenue Fund</i> 1	Probable Revenue Gain/(Loss) from <i>Available School Fund</i> 2	Probable Revenue Gain/(Loss) from <i>State Highway Fund</i> 6
2020	(\$2,000)	(\$39,000)	(\$119,000)
2021	(\$2,000)	(\$44,000)	(\$132,000)
2022	(\$2,000)	(\$44,000)	(\$134,000)
2023	(\$2,000)	(\$45,000)	(\$136,000)
2024	(\$2,000)	(\$46,000)	(\$138,000)

Fiscal Analysis

The bill would amend several sections of Chapter 162, Tax Code, to provide for exemption of rural transit districts from payment of motor fuel taxes.

The bill would amend Section 162.104 (a) to exempt rural transit districts from the payment of gasoline taxes for fuel used exclusively to provide public transportation. The bill would amend

Section 162.204 (a) and Section 162.356 (a) to exempt rural transit districts from the payment taxes on diesel fuel, and compressed or liquefied natural gas.

The bill would add Section 162.1276, to provide for rural transit districts to file a refund claim with the comptroller's office for the payment of taxes on gasoline used to provide public transportation. The refund claim must contain information regarding vehicle mileage, hours of service provided, and fuel consumed.

The bill would add Sections 162.2276 and 162.3685 to provide comparable provisions for refunds to rural transit districts of taxes paid on diesel fuel, and compressed or liquefied natural gas.

The bill would take effect immediately upon enactment, assuming it received the requisite two-thirds majority votes in both houses of the Legislature. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2019.

Methodology

Under current statute, a number of public entities receive an exemption from the payment of motor fuel taxes. The bill would add rural transit districts to the list of entities that are exempted from the payment of such taxes and are entitled to file refund claims on the taxes paid for motor fuel that is exclusively used in their operations.

Based on information from the Texas A&M University Transportation Institute's Transit Mobility Program, 37 transit districts would be exempted from motor fuels taxes by the bill. Twenty-eight of these districts are rural while there are another nine districts that are combined urban/rural transit districts.

National data on fuel consumed by public transit authorities per unlinked passenger trip was multiplied by the number of unlinked passenger trips for each of the 37 rural transit districts to estimate the volume of fuel that would be exempted from tax. The result was multiplied by the \$0.20 tax per gallon of fuel and extrapolated to 2020 and subsequent years with the historical and forecast rates of growth of the motor fuels tax revenues.

The exemption provided to rural transit district would have a negative fiscal impact on the state.

Local Government Impact

No fiscal implication to units of local government is anticipated.

Source Agencies: 304 Comptroller of Public Accounts

LBB Staff: WP, KK, SD, SMad