H.B. No. 2223

AN ACT

relating to a study by the Texas Department of Transportation on the impact of certain classifications of motor vehicle on the roads and bridges of this state.

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

SECTION 1.  DEFINITION. In this Act, "department" means the Texas Department of Transportation.

SECTION 2.  STUDY AND REPORT. (a) The department, in consultation with the Texas A&M Transportation Institute, The University of Texas Center for Transportation Research, and transportation industry representatives, shall conduct a study on the impact on the roads and bridges of this state by motor vehicles classified as:

(1)  passenger vehicles;

(2)  commercial motor vehicles; and

(3)  oversize or overweight vehicles.

(b)  The study shall determine, for each classification of vehicle listed in Subsection (a) of this section:

(1)  the number of vehicles that drive on the roads and bridges of this state each year;

(2)  the number of miles driven on the roads and bridges of this state each year;

(3)  the total revenue contribution from taxes and fees to the construction and maintenance of the roads and bridges of this state;

(4)  the financial impact due to costs associated with:

(A)  construction and maintenance of the roads and bridges of this state; and

(B)  congestion on the roads and bridges of this state; and

(5)  whether and by what amount the total revenue contribution determined under Subdivision (3) of this subsection exceeds or falls short of the financial impact determined under Subdivision (4) of this subsection.

(c)  The study shall assess the overall economic benefits to the economy of this state of:

(1)  commercial motor vehicles; and

(2)  oversize or overweight vehicles.

(d)  The study shall recommend one or more changes to existing tax or fee structures to ensure that vehicles of each classification listed under Subsection (a) of this section contribute revenue to fund the construction and maintenance of the roads and bridges of this state in an amount at least equal to the financial impact of the vehicles of that classification on those roads and bridges. The recommendations shall include:

(1)  specific dollar amounts for taxes and fees for each classification of vehicle; and

(2)  if applicable, new methods of structuring existing sources of revenue.

(e)  Not later than December 1, 2022, the department shall submit to the governor, the lieutenant governor, and the legislature a written report on the findings of the study. The report must include recommendations for policy and statutory changes, including any proposed legislation, that are based on the results of the study.

SECTION 3.  EXPIRATION. This Act expires May 1, 2023.

SECTION 4.  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, 2021.

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    President of the Senate Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 2223 was passed by the House on April 23, 2021, by the following vote:  Yeas 123, Nays 23, 2 present, not voting.

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Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 2223 was passed by the Senate on May 19, 2021, by the following vote:  Yeas 31, Nays 0.

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Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED:  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

                    Date

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                  Governor