

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to an optional county fee on vehicle registration in certain counties to be used for transportation projects.

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

SECTION 1. Section 502.402, Transportation Code, is amended by amending Subsections (a), (b), (b-1), and (e) and adding Subsection (e-1) to read as follows:

(a) This section applies only to:

(1) a county that:

(A) borders the United Mexican States; and

(B) has a population of more than 250,000; ~~and~~

(2) a county that has a population of more than 1.5 million that is coterminous with a regional mobility authority;

(3) a county other than a county described by Subdivision (1) or (2) that is part of a regional mobility authority; and

(4) a county:

(A) that has a population of more than 320,000;

(B) that does not border the United Mexican States; and

(C) in which a port authority is authorized to issue permits for oversize or overweight vehicles under Chapter 623.

(b) The commissioners court of a county by order may impose

1 an additional fee for a vehicle registered in the county. Except as  
2 provided by Subsection (b-1), the fee may not exceed \$10. In a  
3 county described by Subsection (a)(3), the fee must be approved by a  
4 majority of the qualified voters of the county voting on the issue  
5 at a referendum election, which the commissioners court may order  
6 and hold for that purpose.

7 (b-1) The commissioners court of a county described by  
8 Subsection (a) [~~with a population of less than 700,000~~] may  
9 increase the additional fee to an amount that does not exceed \$20 if  
10 approved by a majority of the qualified voters of the county voting  
11 on the issue at a referendum election, which the commissioners  
12 court may order and hold for that purpose.

13 (e) The additional fee shall be collected for a vehicle when  
14 other fees imposed under this chapter are collected. Except as  
15 otherwise provided by Subsection (e-1), the [~~The~~] fee revenue  
16 collected shall be:

17 (1) sent to a regional mobility authority located in  
18 the county to fund long-term transportation projects in the county  
19 that are consistent with the purposes specified by Section 7-a,  
20 Article VIII, Texas Constitution; or

21 (2) if there is no regional mobility authority located  
22 in the county, used by the county only to fund long-term  
23 transportation projects in the county that are consistent with the  
24 purposes specified by Section 7-a, Article VIII, Texas  
25 Constitution.

26 (e-1) If a county described by Subsection (a)(1), other than  
27 a county in which a vehicle is required to pass an emissions

1 inspection, has been authorized to increase the amount of the fee  
2 under Subsection (b-1), 50 percent of the additional revenue  
3 collected as authorized by that subsection shall be sent to the  
4 county treasurer of the county to be credited to the county road and  
5 bridge fund.

6 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
7 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
8 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
9 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
10 Act takes effect September 1, 2021.