**BILL ANALYSIS**

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| Senate Research Center | S.B. 1023 |
|  | By: Nichols |
|  | Transportation |
|  | 5/23/2023 |
|  | Enrolled |

**AUTHOR'S / SPONSOR'S STATEMENT OF INTENT**

In accordance with previous Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) rules, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) has worked to ensure that load posting signs for on-system bridges are installed within 90 days and load posting signs for off-system bridges are installed within 180 days of when a determination is made that a load restriction is necessary. A change to the bridge load posting requirements by FHWA will now require load posting signs to be installed at all on-system and off-system bridges within 30 days of when a determination is made that a load restriction is required. Texas has an inventory of more than 55,000 vehicular bridges open to public traffic. There are roughly 36,000 on-system bridges and 19,000 off-system bridges. While TxDOT is responsible for oversight and compliance with these FHWA bridge load posting requirements, TxDOT currently has no authority to install bridge load posting signs on off-system bridges, nor does TxDOT have the authority to force local governments to do so.

S.B. 1023 amends Chapter 201, Texas Transportation Code, to authorize TxDOT to install off-system bridge load posting signs as required by federal rules.

S.B. 1023 amends current law relating to the establishment and posting of the maximum loads permitted on certain bridges.

**RULEMAKING AUTHORITY**

This bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

**SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS**

SECTION 1. Amends Section 201.8035, Transportation Code, by adding Subsection (c), as follows:

(c) Authorizes the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) to post a notice required under Subsection (b) (relating to requiring a commissioners court or governing body to post notices on the road or highway approaching a bridge that state the maximum load for the bridge) for a bridge under the jurisdiction of a county or a municipality if TxDOT is required or authorized under federal law to post the notice. Requires that the notice be posted in accordance with federal law.

SECTION 2. Effective date: upon passage or September 1, 2023.