By:  Wilson H.B. No. 3843

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a study and report by the Texas A&M Transportation Institute regarding toll project entities.

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

SECTION 1.  DEFINITIONS. In this Act:

(1)  "Institute" means the Texas A&M Transportation Institute.

(2)  "Toll project" has the meaning assigned by Section 201.001(b), Transportation Code.

(3)  "Toll project entity" means an entity that operates a toll project, including:

(A)  the Texas Department of Transportation under Chapter 228, Transportation Code;

(B)  a regional tollway authority under Chapter 366, Transportation Code;

(C)  a regional mobility authority under Chapter 370, Transportation Code; or

(D)  a county under Chapter 284, Transportation Code.

SECTION 2.  STUDY. (a) The institute shall conduct a study comparing the practices and operations of toll project entities statewide.

(b)  The study must include a comparison of:

(1)  toll operations;

(2)  error rates;

(3)  customer complaints and case escalations;

(4)  speed of processing;

(5)  billing practices; and

(6)  any other factors the institute deems appropriate.

(c)  Not later than May 1, 2024, each toll project entity shall submit to the institute the entity's comments on best practices for and challenges experienced with the matters listed in Subsection (b) of this section and any other matter that presents a challenge to the entity in the operation of a toll project. The institute shall incorporate the comments into the report required by Section 3 of this Act.

SECTION 3.  REPORT. Not later than December 1, 2024, the institute shall submit to the governor, the lieutenant governor, and the legislature a written report of the findings of the study.

SECTION 4.  EXPIRATION DATE. This Act expires May 1, 2025.

SECTION 5.  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, 2023.