By:  Canales H.B. No. 4422

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a study on enhancing border security outcomes through public safety, technological, and transportation infrastructure improvements near Texas-Mexico border crossings.

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. (a) The department, in consultation with the Texas Department of Public Safety, the Texas Military Department, local law enforcement near the Texas-Mexico border, Texas A&M Transportation Institute, the Southwest Research Institute, and transportation industry representatives, shall conduct a study on the public safety, border security, and modernization of transportation infrastructure from Texas-Mexico border crossings onto the state highway system for safe, efficient, and streamlined commercial motor vehicle connectivity that amplify Operation Lone Star efforts.

(b)  The study shall:

(1)  select multiple Texas-Mexico international border crossings that serve commercial vehicles for this study;

(2)  analyze current transportation routes for commercial vehicles from border crossings onto the state highway system and identify ways to:

(A)  bolster border security initiatives that support Operation Lone Star or similar state security efforts;

(B)  fortify law enforcement response efforts near border crossings that maximize oversight, inspection, and public safety resources;

(C)  enhance transportation road infrastructure and road technology to maximize the safety of communities and driving public;

(D)  reduce traffic congestion along routes while mitigating safety concerns; and

(E)  bolster infrastructure and road technology to improve efficient and streamlined connectivity;

(3)  analyze possible future transportation routes for greater efficiency in the movement of commercial vehicles from border crossings onto the state highway system that enhance safety, mitigate congestion, and streamline connectivity;

(4)  assess current technologies utilized under existing border security efforts at commercial inspection facilities at or near border crossings and identify upgrades to or alternative technologies that may improve border security efforts,

(5)  identify funding strategies and funding amounts to fill any gaps in transportation needs.

SECTION 3.  REPORT. Not later than December 1, 2024, the department shall submit to the governor, the lieutenant governor, and the legislature a written report on the findings of the study conducted under this Act and any associated recommendations.

SECTION 4.  EXPIRATION. This Act expires January 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.