

1-1 By: Nichols S.B. No. 1121  
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed February 5, 2025; February 24, 2025,  
1-3 read first time and referred to Committee on Transportation;  
1-4 March 13, 2025, reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 9,  
1-5 Nays 0; March 13, 2025, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

1-7	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-8	Nichols	X		
1-9	West	X		
1-10	Bettencourt	X		
1-11	Hagenbuch	X		
1-12	Hinojosa of Hidalgo	X		
1-13	Johnson	X		
1-14	King	X		
1-15	Miles	X		
1-16	Perry	X		

1-17 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
1-18 AN ACT

1-19 relating to excepting certain fiber-optic cable projects from  
1-20 certain notice requirements for projects on state or local public  
1-21 land.

1-22 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-23 SECTION 1. Section 191.0525(e), Natural Resources Code, is  
1-24 amended to read as follows:

1-25 (e) There exist categorical exclusions since many  
1-26 activities conducted on nonfederal public land have little, if any,  
1-27 chance to damage archeological sites, and therefore should not  
1-28 require notification under this section. The following are  
1-29 categorical exclusions at a minimum:

1-30 (1) water injection into existing oil and gas wells;

1-31 (2) upgrading of electrical transmission lines when  
1-32 there will be no new disturbance of the existing easement;

1-33 (3) seismic exploration activity when there is no  
1-34 ground penetration or disturbance;

1-35 (4) building and repairing fences that do not require  
1-36 construction or modification of associated roads, fire breaks, or  
1-37 previously disturbed ground;

1-38 (5) road maintenance that does not involve widening or  
1-39 lengthening the road;

1-40 (6) installation or replacement of meter taps;

1-41 (7) controlled burning of fields;

1-42 (8) animal grazing;

1-43 (9) plowing, if the techniques are similar to those  
1-44 used previously;

1-45 (10) installation of monuments and sign posts unless  
1-46 within the boundaries of designated historic districts;

1-47 (11) maintenance of existing trails;

1-48 (12) land sales and trades of land held by the  
1-49 permanent school fund and permanent university fund;

1-50 (13) permanent school fund and permanent university  
1-51 fund leases, easements, and permits, including mineral leases and  
1-52 pooling agreements, in which the lessee, grantee, or permittee is  
1-53 specifically required to comply with the provisions of this  
1-54 chapter;

1-55 (14) oil, gas, or other mineral exploration,  
1-56 production, processing, marketing, refining, or transportation  
1-57 facility or pipeline project in an area where the project will cross  
1-58 state or local public roads, rivers, and streams, unless they  
1-59 contain a recorded archeological site or a designated state land  
1-60 tract in Texas' submerged lands;

1-61 (15) maintenance, operation, replacement, or minor

2-1 modification of an existing oil, gas, or other mineral exploration,  
2-2 production, processing, marketing, refining, or transportation  
2-3 facility or pipeline; ~~and~~

2-4 (16) installation, maintenance, operation,  
2-5 replacement, or minor modification of buried fiber-optic cables  
2-6 located in the right-of-way of an existing road; and

2-7 (17) any project for which a state permit application  
2-8 has been made prior to promulgation of rules under this section.

2-9 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
2-10 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
2-11 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
2-12 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
2-13 Act takes effect September 1, 2025.

2-14

\* \* \* \* \*