

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center

H.B. 3554
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International Relations and Trade
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Engrossed

DIGEST AND PURPOSE

Truck traffic in Laredo has increased from 865,952 loaded trucks crossing the bridges in 1995 to 2,900,000 currently, with more than 12,000 trucks traveling in and out of Laredo daily. The implementation of the North American Free Trade Agreement, i.e., NAFTA, has brought dramatically increased traffic and collisions to border cities. The border cities have organized to place border inspection stations near ports of entry without interrupting the flow of traffic. Currently the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is in the process of building eight inspection stations and is not required to consult with the border municipalities on the placement of the border inspection stations. H.B. 3554 allows cities with more than 900,000 commercial border crossings in the state fiscal year ending August 31, 2002, to direct where the inspection station will be located, if the station is to be located inside the city limits or the city's extraterritorial jurisdiction. This bill also instructs TxDOT to erect and maintain border inspection facilities in the Pharr, Laredo, and El Paso districts.

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 201.613, Transportation Code, as follows:

Sec. 201.613. New heading: BORDER INSPECTION FACILITIES. (a) Requires the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) to erect and maintain border inspection facilities, rather than choose a location for an inspection station, along a major highway at or near a border crossing from Mexico in the Pharr, Laredo, and El Paso districts, rather than in Brownsville, in Laredo, and in El Paso, for the inspection of motor vehicles for compliance with federal and state commercial motor vehicle regulations. Deletes text referring to federal, state, and municipal agencies that regulate the passage of persons or vehicles across the border.

(b) Authorizes the municipality, if a facility that serves a bridge system that had more than 900,000 commercial border crossings during the state fiscal year ending August 31, 2002, is to be located in a municipality or a municipality's extraterritorial jurisdiction, to choose the location of the facility within the municipality or the municipality's extraterritorial jurisdiction. Requires the municipality to choose a location not later than the 180th day after the date TxDOT makes a request for a location. Deletes text referring to a requirement that TxDOT establish and maintain an inspection station at the locations chosen in only if the federal agencies involved in the regulation of the passage of persons or vehicles at that border crossing agree to the design of the facility at each location and agree to use the facility at each location if built. Deletes original Subsection (c) and text referring to authorization for TxDOT to enter into agreements with federal, state, and municipal agencies the form of that agreement

SECTION 2. Requires TxDOT to spend the money appropriated during the 76th Legislature for Section 201.613 (One-Stop Border Inspection Stations), Transportation Code, as added by

Chapter 1527, Acts of the 76th Legislature, Regular Session, 1999, or money received from the federal government to establish the border inspection facilities under Section 201.613 (One-Stop Border Inspection Stations), Transportation Code, as amended by this Act.

SECTION 3. Effective date: upon passage or September 1, 2003.