

- SUBJECT:** Allowing oversize or overweight vehicles on sections of State Hwy 99
- COMMITTEE:** Transportation — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 11 ayes — Morrison, Martinez, Burkett, Y. Davis, Goldman, Israel, Minjarez, Phillips, Simmons, E. Thompson, Wray
- 0 nays
- 2 absent — Pickett, S. Thompson
- SENATE VOTE:** On final passage, May 1 — 31-0
- WITNESSES:** *On House companion bill, HB 2778:*
For — Alison Haynes, Richardson Stevedoring and Logistics; Rusty Senac, Chambers County; (*Registered, but did not testify:* Brian Hawthorne, Sheriffs' Association of Texas; Ron Lewis, TGS Cedar Port Industrial Park; Stephanie Simpson, Texas Association of Manufacturers)
- Against — None
- On — Marc Williams, Texas Department of Transportation; (*Registered, but did not testify:* Mark Marek, Texas Department of Transportation)
- BACKGROUND:** Transportation Code, ch. 623, subch. M allows Chambers County to issue a permit for the movement of oversize or overweight vehicles carrying cargo on certain state highways located in the county. A permit may authorize the transport of cargo on roads that include a specified portion of the frontage road of State Highway 99.
- DIGEST:** SB 1291 would change the portion of State Highway 99 for which Chambers County could issue permits for certain oversize or overweight vehicles. It would specify that the county could authorize the transport of cargo on State Highway 99, including the frontage road but excluding any portion of the highway for which payment of a toll was required, between its crossing with Cedar Bayou and its intersection with Interstate Highway

10.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2017.

**SUPPORTERS
SAY:**

SB 1291 would clarify that non-tolled main lanes and frontage roads of State Highway 99 could be used for vehicles with certain oversize or overweight permits issued by Chambers County. Current law is unclear and has created confusion on whether oversize or overweight vehicles are allowed on this stretch of highway, which has hindered access for heavy-haul trucks to and from the Port of Houston. Allowing access to oversize and overweight vehicles along this stretch of road was the legislative intent of SB 274 by Williams, enacted by the 83rd Legislature in 2013, and the bill simply would provide clarity based on language recommended by the Texas Department of Transportation.

**OPPONENTS
SAY:**

No apparent opposition.

NOTES:

A companion bill, HB 2778 by Faircloth, was reported favorably from the House Committee on Transportation on May 2.