

SUBJECT: Requiring TxDOT to conduct a study regarding toll project entities

COMMITTEE: Transportation — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 11 ayes — Canales, Raney, Ashby, Gamez, Caroline Harris, Landgraf, Lozano, Lujan, Ordaz, Perez, Romero

1 nays — Davis

1 absent — Patterson

WITNESSES: For — Terri Hall, Texas TURF, Texans for Toll-free Highways
(*Registered, but did not testify:* Wilma Joy Putnam; Terry Putnam)

Against — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Terry Putnam)

On — Stephen Stewart, TxDOT (*Registered, but did not testify:* Shawn Hall Lecuona, Kri’ah b’shalom)

BACKGROUND: Concerns have been raised that current statute does not easily allow for transparent comparisons in the practices and operations of toll project entities.

DIGEST: HB 3843 would require the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) to conduct a study comparing the practices and operations of toll project entities statewide. The study would have to compare toll operations, error rates, customer complaints, speed of processing, billing practices, and any other factors TxDOT deemed appropriate. By December 1, 2024, TxDOT would be required to submit a written report of the study's findings to the governor, lieutenant governor, and the Legislature. The bill would expire May 1, 2025.

The bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2023.