

SUBJECT: Authorizing TxDOT to post notice of maximum loads on certain bridges

COMMITTEE: Transportation — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 12 ayes — Canales, Raney, Ashby, Davis, Gámez, Caroline Harris,
Landgraf, Lujan, Ordaz, Patterson, Perez, Romero

0 nays

1 absent — Lozano

WITNESSES: For — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Cicely Kay, Travis County
Commissioners Court)

Against — None

On — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Lance Simmons, TxDOT)

BACKGROUND: Transportation Code sec. 201.8035 requires the commissioners court of a county or governing body of a municipality, upon being notified that the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) had determined that a bridge in the county or municipality's jurisdiction qualified for a lower load rating than is currently permitted, to post notices on the road approaching the bridge that state the maximum permitted load.

Some have suggested that statutory revisions are needed to align state law with recent federal legislative changes on load notice posting.

DIGEST: HB 3887 would allow TxDOT to post a notice required under Transportation Code sec. 201.8035 if required or authorized under federal law to do so. The notice would have to be posted in accordance with federal law.

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.

