

SUBJECT: Requiring inclement weather treatment training for tollway employees

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 — Terri Hall, Texas TURF, Texans for Toll-free Highways  
(*Registered, but did not testify*: Ron Lewis, Cintra; Arturo Ballesteros,  
North Texas Tollway Authority)

Against — None

On — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Brian Barth, TxDOT)

DIGEST: HB 4797 would establish that a toll project entity that treated a roadway maintained by the entity during icy or snowy weather would have to require employees or contractors who performed the treatment to complete training in the same manner as Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) employees who perform such treatment.

The bill would require TxDOT to make available the training courses that it provides for its employees to the tollway employees and contractors. TxDOT also could authorize a toll project entity to require its employees and contractors to complete training by another entity that was substantially similar to the department's training.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2023.

SUPPORTERS SAY: HB 4797 would increase safety on toll roads during wintry weather by mandating that toll operator employees and contractors responsible for road treatment received sufficient training similar to that received by

TxDOT employees who do the same kind of work.

CRITICS  
SAY:

No concerns identified.