

**SUBJECT:** Authorizing a vehicle registration fee by referendum in certain counties

**COMMITTEE:** Transportation — favorable, without amendment

**VOTE:** 10 ayes — Canales, Raney, Ashby, Davis, Gámez, Caroline Harris, Landgraf, Lozano, Ordaz, Perez

1 nay — Patterson

2 absent — Lujan, Romero

**WITNESSES:** For — Jorge Reyes, El Paso County; Eduardo Calvo, El Paso MPO (*Registered, but did not testify*: Steven Albright, Associated General Contractors of Texas- Highway Heavy Utility and Industrial Branch; Guadalupe Cuellar, City of El Paso; Tom Forbes, El Paso Chamber of Commerce; Elisa M. Tamayo, Claudia Russell, El Paso County; Jay Crossley, Farm&City; Scott White, Velo Paso Bicycle-Pedestrian Coalition)

Against — Rick Briscoe (*Registered, but did not testify*;; Ruth York, Tea Party Patriots of Eastland County, Texas Family Defense Committee; Terri Hall, Texas TURF, Texans for Toll-free Highways; Tom Glass; Gregory Porter; Fran Rhodes)

On — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Annette Quintero, Texas Department of Motor Vehicles)

**BACKGROUND:** Some have suggested that allowing El Paso County to seek voter approval for additional vehicle registration fees could help to fund long-term transportation projects.

**DIGEST:** HB 78 would authorize the commissioners court of a county that bordered Mexico and contained a municipality that had unilaterally created a regional mobility authority to impose an additional fee of up to \$10 for a vehicle registered in the county if approved by a majority of voters in an election. The commissioners court could order and hold an election for

that purpose.

Fee revenue would be required to be sent to a regional mobility authority in the county to fund long-term transportation projects that were consistent with constitutionally allowed purposes and included in a plan approved by the metropolitan planning organization that served the county.

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.