

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center

C.S.S.B. 1704

By: Ogden

State Affairs

4-14-97

Committee Report (Substituted)

DIGEST

Currently, the law sets speed limits on farm-to-market and ranch-to-market roads at 70 miles per hour in the daytime and 65 miles per hour at nighttime. There are many two-lane farm-to-market and ranch-to-market roads in this state that do not have paved shoulders and are dangerous to travel at the 70-mile-per-hour speed limit. This bill provides that a lawful speed is 70 miles per hour in the daytime and 65 miles per hour on a farm-to-market road if that road has a pavement width greater than 20 feet; and 60 miles per hour in the daytime and 55 miles per hour at night on a highway that is outside and urban district and on a farm-to-market or ranch-to-market road having a pavement width of 20 feet or less.

PURPOSE

As proposed, C.S.S.B. 1704 provides that a lawful speed is 70 miles per hour in the daytime and 65 miles per hour on a farm-to-market road if that road has a pavement width greater than 20 feet; and 60 miles per hour in the daytime and 55 miles per hour at night on a highway that is outside and urban district and on a farm-to-market or ranch-to-market road having a pavement width of 20 feet or less.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

This bill does not grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Section 545.352(b), Transportation Code, to provide that a lawful speed is 70 miles per hour in daytime and 65 miles per hour in nighttime on a farm-to-market road if that road has a pavement width greater than 20 feet; and 60 miles per hour in daytime and 55 miles per hour at night on a highway that is outside an urban district and on a farm-to-market or ranch-to-market road having a pavement width 20 feet or less.

SECTION 2. Amends Section 545.353, Transportation Code, by adding Subsection (h), to authorize the prima facie speed limit under Section 545.352(b)(3), to be increased if the Texas Transportation Commission determines from the results of an engineering and traffic investigation that a higher prima facie speed limit is reasonable and safe.

SECTION 3. Makes application of this Act prospective.

SECTION 4. Emergency clause.

Effective date: 90 days after adjournment

SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE CHANGES

SECTION 1.

Amends Section 545.352(b), Transportation Code, to delete text regarding improved shoulders and to add text regarding the pavement width of a road.

SECTIONS 2 and 3.

Redesignates SECTIONS 2 and 3 as SECTIONS 3 and 4. Amends Section 545.353, Transportation Code, by adding Subsection (h), to authorize the prima facie speed limit under Section 545.352(b)(3), to be increased if the Texas Transportation Commission determines from the results of an engineering and traffic investigation that a higher prima facie speed limit is reasonable and safe.