Appendix IV Sample Legislation

Sample Legislation for Recommendation 10 [Toll Equity]

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By: Wentworth S.J.R. No. 3

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

1-1 proposing a constitutional amendment in aid of turnpikes, toll 1-2 roads, and toll bridges.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS: SECTION 1. Section 52-b, Article III, Texas Constitution, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 52-b. The Legislature shall have no power or authority to in any manner lend the credit of the State or grant any public money to, or assume any indebtedness, present or future, bonded or otherwise, of any individual, person, firm, partnership, association, corporation, public corporation, public agency, or political subdivision of the State, or anyone else, which is now or hereafter authorized to construct, maintain or operate toll roads and turnpikes within this State except that the Legislature may authorize the Texas Department of Transportation to expend money, from any source available, for the construction, maintenance, and operation by the Department, an agency of this State, or a political subdivision of this State [costs] of turnpikes, toll roads, and [or] toll bridges [of the Texas Turnpike Authority, or successor agency, provided that any monies expended out of the state highway fund shall be repaid to the fund from tolls or other turnpike revenuel.

SECTION 2. This proposed constitutional amendment shall be submitted to the voters at an election to be held November 2, 1999. The ballot shall be printed to permit voting for or against the proposition: "The constitutional amendment to authorize the Texas Department of Transportation to expend money for turnpikes, toll roads, and toll bridges."

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By: Wentworth

S.B. No. 925

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

relating to the participation of the Texas Department of Transportation in the construction, maintenance, and operation of toll facilities.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS: SECTION 1. Section 222.103, Transportation Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 222.103. COST PARTICIPATION. (a) The department may participate, by spending money from any available source, in the cost of the construction, maintenance, or operation of a toll facility of a public or private entity on terms and conditions established by the commission. The commission may require the repayment of any money spent by the department under this subsection[, including requirements for repayment].

(b) [An entity receiving cost participation from the department under this section is a successor agency to the Texas Turnpike Authority for the purposes of Section 52-b, Article III, Texas Constitution.]

[(c)] On the request of a member of the legislature, the department shall provide the member a status report on all highway construction projects, by legislative district, that are under contract or awaiting funding. The report shall include projects that would be funded in any manner by state, federal, or toll funds.

(c) [(d)] On the request of a member of the legislature, not later than the 90th day before the date an expenditure is made or a loan is granted by the department for a project under this section, the department shall notify each member of the legislature that represents any part of the area affected by the project of the status of the project and how any other project in any other district would be affected.

SECTION 2. Subsection (b), Section 361.184, Transportation Code, is amended to read as follows:

- (b) The board may transfer, or direct the authority to transfer, into the project revolving fund money from any permissible source, including:
- (1) money from a surplus fund established for a turnpike project if the remainder of the surplus fund is not less than any minimum amount required by the trust agreement to be retained for that project;
- (2) money received under Subchapter I or from a transfer of a turnpike project under Subchapter H;
- (3) money [advances] from the state highway fund [if the advances are repaid as required by Section 52-b, Article III, Texas Constitution]; and
- (4) contributions or assistance from the United States, another state, a political subdivision of this state, the United Mexican States, or a political subdivision of the United Mexican States.

SECTION 3. Section 361.191, Transportation Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 361.191. EXPENDITURE OF MONEY AUTHORIZED BY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION. (a) The Texas Department of Transportation may provide for the expenditure of money for the cost of the construction, maintenance, or operation of a turnpike project by the authority.

(b) The department may require the authority to repay money provided to the authority under Subsection (a) from toll revenue or other sources and on terms established by the commission [If money from the state highway fund is spent under this section, the fund shall be repaid from tolls or other turnpike revenue].

SECTION 4. Subsections (e) and (f), Section 362.004, Transportation Code, are amended to read as follows:

3 - 13(e) If the department spends money [from the state highway 3 - 14fund is spent] under an agreement under this section, the 3-15 commission may require the authority to [shall] repay that money 3-16 [the fund] from toll revenue or other sources and on terms 3-17 established by the commission [tolls or other turnpike revenue]. 3-18 (f) If the commission finds that the state highway system, 3 - 19the state's transportation needs, and overall mobility of the 3-20 traveling public will be enhanced, the commission may enter into an 3-21 agreement with the authority providing for the advance of funds to 3-22 the authority to be used for any purpose of the revolving fund 3-23 established and administered by the authority under Section 3-24 361.184. The commission may require the authority to repay funds 3-25 advanced under this subsection from toll revenue or other sources 3-26 and on terms established by the commission [, provided that any 4 - 1money advanced out of the state highway fund shall be repaid to the 4 - 2fund from tolls or other turnpike revenue]. 4 - 3SECTION 5. This Act takes effect on the date on which the constitutional amendment proposed by S.J.R. No. 3, 76th 4-4 4-5 Legislature, Regular Session, 1999, takes effect. If that

amendment is not approved by the voters, this Act has no effect.

Sample Legislation for Recommendation 11 [Separated Toll Fund] 1-1 1-2

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AN ACT

relating to funds maintained by and for the Texas Turnpike Authority division of the Texas Department of Transportation.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 361.182, Transportation Code, is amended by amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsections (g) and (h) to read as follows:

- (a) The authority shall maintain the Texas Turnpike Authority feasibility study fund. The fund is a revolving fund held in trust by a banking institution chosen by the authority or, at the discretion of the authority, in trust in the state treasury outside the general revenue fund. The fund [and] shall be kept separate from the money for any project.
- (g) Interest and income earned on money deposited in the feasibility study fund shall be deposited to the credit of the fund.
- (h) Money transferred to the department for the benefit of the authority under Section 8.02, Chapter 1171, Acts of the 75th Legislature, Regular Session, 1997, shall remain in the state treasury and may not be transferred to a private banking institution. This money is exempt from the application of Section 403.095, Government Code, and is not subject to reduction or elimination under any other provision of the Government Code.

SECTION 2. Section 361.184, Transportation Code, is amended by amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsections (e) and (f) to read as follows:

- (a) The authority may maintain the Texas Turnpike Authority project revolving fund. The fund is a revolving fund held in trust by a banking institution chosen by the authority or, at the discretion of the authority, in trust in the state treasury outside the general revenue fund. The fund [and] shall be kept separate from other funds of the authority.
- (e) Interest and income earned on money deposited in the project revolving fund shall be deposited to the credit of the fund.
- (f) Money transferred to the department for the benefit of the authority under Section 8.02, Chapter 1171, Acts of the 75th Legislature, Regular Session, 1997, may not be deposited in the project revolving fund.

SECTION 3. Subsection (a), Section 361.185, Transportation Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) All money received under this chapter, whether as proceeds from the sale of bonds or as revenue, is a trust fund to be held and applied as provided by this chapter. Notwithstanding any other law, including Section 9, Chapter 1123, Acts of the 75th Legislature, Regular Session, 1997, funds held under this chapter shall be held in trust by a banking institution chosen by the authority or, at the discretion of the authority, in trust in the state treasury outside the general revenue fund.

SECTION 4. Section 8.06, Chapter 1171, Acts of the 75th Legislature, Regular Session, 1997, is repealed.

SECTION 5. The importance of this legislation and the crowded condition of the calendars in both houses create an emergency and an imperative public necessity that the constitutional rule requiring bills to be read on three several days in each house be suspended, and this rule is hereby suspended.

President of the Senate Speaker of the House I hereby certify that S.B. No. 1751 passed the Senate on May 18, 1999, by a viva-voce vote.

Secretary of the Senate I hereby certify that S.B. No. 1751 passed the House on May 26, 1999, by a non-record vote.

Approved:		
	Date	 _
	Governor	 -

Chief Clerk of the House

Sample Legislation for Recommendation 12 [Conforming TTA with RTA] 76R16281 DRH-F

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By Cain
                                                                S.B. No. 1647
         Substitute the following for S.B. No. 1647:
         By Alexander
                                                           C.S.S.B. No. 1647
                                A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
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                                       AN ACT
         relating to the powers and duties of the Texas Turnpike Authority
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         division of the Texas Department of Transportation.
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               BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:
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               SECTION 1. Subsection (a), Section 284.008, Transportation
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         Code, is amended to read as follows:
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               (a) The commission may:
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                     (1) provide for and contribute toward the acquisition,
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         construction, improvement, operation, maintenance, or pooling of a
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         project under this chapter and under terms to which the commission
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         and the local government corporation or county agree that are
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         consistent with the rights of bondholders or a person operating the
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         project under a lease or other contract;
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                     (2)
                          lease a project under terms:
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                           (A) to which the county or local government
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         corporation acting under this chapter and the commission agree; and
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                           (B) that are consistent with the bond
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         instrument; [and]
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                     (3) declare any part of a project under this chapter
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         to be a part of the state highway system [and operate any part of a
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         project as part of the state highway system], to the extent that
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         property and contract rights in the project and bonds are not
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         affected unfavorably; and
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                     (4) operate any part of a project under this chapter
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         as part of the state highway system or authorize the lease, sale,
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         or conveyance of any part of a project to the Texas Turnpike
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         Authority division of the department.
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               SECTION 2. Subdivision (4), Section 361.001, Transportation
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         Code, is amended to read as follows:
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                          "Turnpike project" means a [toll] highway
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         constructed, maintained, or operated under this chapter as part of
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         the state highway system and any improvement, extension, or
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         expansion to the highway and includes:
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                           (A) a facility to relieve traffic congestion and
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        promote safety;
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                           (B) a bridge, tunnel, overpass, underpass,
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         interchange, entrance plaza, approach, toll house, service road,
         ramp, or service station;
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                           (C) an administration, storage, or other
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         building the authority considers necessary to operate the project;
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         [and]
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                           (D) property rights, easements, and interests
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         the authority acquires to construct or operate the project; and
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                           (E) a parking area or structure, rest stop,
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         park, and any other improvement or amenity the authority considers
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        necessary, useful, or beneficial for the operation of a turnpike
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        project.
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               SECTION 3. Section 361.004, Transportation Code, is amended
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         to read as follows:
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               Sec. 361.004. CONSTRUCTION COSTS. (a) The cost of
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         acquisition, construction, improvement, extension, or expansion of
         a turnpike project under this chapter includes the cost of:
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                     (1) the actual acquisition, construction, improvement,
         extension, or expansion of the project;
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                     (2) acquisition of real property, rights-of-way,
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         property rights, easements, and interests;
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                     (3) machinery and equipment;
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                     (4) interest before, during, and for one year after
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         construction, improvement, extension, or expansion;
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                     (5) traffic estimates, engineering and legal services,
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         plans, specifications, surveys, appraisals, cost and revenue
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         estimates, and other expenses necessary or incident to determining
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         the feasibility of the construction, improvement, extension, or
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         expansion;
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                           necessary or incidental administrative, legal, and
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         other expenses;
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                      (7)
                           financing; and
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                      (8)
                           placement of the project in operation and expenses
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         related to the initial operation of the turnpike project.
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               (b) Costs attributable to a turnpike project for which bonds
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         are issued that are incurred before the issuance of the bonds may
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         be reimbursed from the proceeds of the sale of the bonds.
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               SECTION 4. Subsections (b) through (g), Section 361.031,
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         Transportation Code, are amended to read as follows:
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                    The authority may perform, procure from other divisions
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         of the department with the consent of the department, or procure
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         from outside service providers any portion of the services the
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         authority requires for:
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                      (1)
                          right-of-way acquisition;
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                          roadway finance, design, and construction;
                      (2)
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                           environmental affairs; [or]
                      (3)
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                      (4)
                          legal services:
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                     (5) roadway maintenance;
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                     (6) toll revenue collection; or
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                     (7) traffic operations.
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                     [With the approval of the commission, the authority may
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         perform, procure from other divisions of the department with the
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         consent of the department, or procure from outside service
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         providers any portion of the services the authority requires for
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         roadway maintenance, toll revenue collection, or traffic
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               \left[\frac{d}{d}\right] To perform its functions under this chapter, the
         authority may use the facilities and personnel of the department in
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         the same manner as other divisions of the department.
               (d) [<del>(e)</del>] If the comptroller assigns numbers to state
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         agencies for accounting purposes, the comptroller shall assign a
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         separate agency number to the authority.
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               (e) [(f)] The exercise by the authority of the powers
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         conferred by this chapter in the construction, operation, and
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         maintenance of a turnpike project is:
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                     (1) in all respects for the benefit of the people of
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         this state, for the increase of their commerce and prosperity, and
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         for the improvement of their health and living conditions and
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         public safety; and
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                      (2) an essential governmental function of the state.
               (f) [(g)] The commission shall employ a director of the
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         authority who serves as the authority's chief administrative
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         officer. The director serves at the pleasure of the commission.
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               SECTION 5. Subsection (b), Section 361.042, Transportation
         Code, is amended to read as follows:
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                    The authority may:
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- (1) construct, maintain, repair, and operate turnpike projects in this state;
- (2) acquire, hold, and dispose of property in the exercise of its powers and the performance of its duties under this chapter;
- (3) with the approval of the governor and the commission, enter into contracts or operating agreements with similar authorities or agencies of another state, including a state of the United Mexican States;
- (4) enter into contracts or agreements necessary or incidental to its duties and powers under this chapter;
- (5) employ consulting engineers, accountants, construction and financial experts, superintendents, managers, and other employees and agents the authority considers necessary and

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5-22 set their compensation;
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- (6) employ attorneys to advance or defend legal actions pertaining to the division's activities, notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, including Section 402.0212, Government Code;
- (7) receive grants for the construction of a turnpike project and receive contributions of money, property, labor, or other things of value from any source to be used for the purposes for which the grants or contributions are made;
- (8) adopt and enforce rules[, if the commission concurs,] not inconsistent with this chapter for the use of any turnpike project, including rules establishing speed limits and maximum allowable vehicle and load weight limits for turnpike projects; [and]
- (9) engage in marketing, advertising, and other activities to promote the development and use of turnpike projects and may enter into contracts or agreements necessary to procure marketing, advertising, or other promotional services from outside service providers;
- (10) form, develop, or utilize a corporation created under Chapter 431 for the promotion and development of turnpike projects; and
- (11) do all things necessary or appropriate to carry out the powers expressly granted by this chapter.
- SECTION 6. Section 361.054, Transportation Code, is amended to read as follows:
- Sec. 361.054. AUDIT. Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, the [The] authority shall have an independent [a] certified public accountant audit the authority's books and accounts at least annually. The cost of the audit may be treated as part of the cost of construction or operation of a turnpike project. This section does not affect the ability of a state agency to audit the authority's books and accounts.
- SECTION 7. Section 361.131, Transportation Code, is amended to read as follows:
- Sec. 361.131. POWERS AND PROCEDURES OF AUTHORITY IN ACQUIRING PROPERTY. Except as otherwise provided by this chapter, the authority, acting by and through the board, has the same powers and may use the same procedures as the commission or the department in acquiring property.
- SECTION 8. Subsections (a) and (c), Section 361.132, Transportation Code, are amended to read as follows:
- (a) The <u>authority</u> [board] may acquire, in the name of the state, public or private real property it determines necessary or convenient for the construction, expansion, enlargement, extension, improvement, or operation of a turnpike project or for otherwise carrying out this chapter.
- (c) The <u>authority</u> [board] may acquire the real property by any method, including purchase and condemnation. The <u>authority</u> [board] may purchase public or private real property on the terms and at the price the <u>authority</u> [board] and the owner consider reasonable.
- SECTION 9. Subsection (b), Section 361.135, Transportation Code, is amended to read as follows:
- (b) The board, with the concurrence of the commission, may condemn real property that the authority determines is:
- (1) necessary or appropriate to construct or to efficiently operate a turnpike project;
- (2) necessary to restore public or private property damaged or destroyed, including property necessary or convenient to mitigate an environmental effect that directly results from the construction, operation, or maintenance of a turnpike project;
- (3) necessary for access, approach, <u>service</u>, and interchange roads; [or]
 - (4) necessary to provide proper drainage and ground

slope for a turnpike project; or

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(5) necessary otherwise to carry out this chapter.
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               SECTION 10. Section 361.137, Transportation Code, is amended
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         by adding Subsection (f) to read as follows:
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               (f) After a declaration of taking is filed, the case shall
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         proceed as any other case in eminent domain under Chapter 21,
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         Property Code.
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               SECTION 11. Subsection (a), Section 361.141, Transportation
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         Code, is amended to read as follows:
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               (a) The authority may not pay compensation for public real
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         property, parkways, streets, highways, alleys, or reservations it
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         takes, except for:
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                     (1) parks and playgrounds; and
                     (2) property acquired under restrictions and
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         limitations requiring payment of compensation.
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               SECTION 12. Section 361.171, Transportation Code, is amended
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         by adding Subsection (g) to read as follows:
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               (g) In addition to other permitted uses, the proceeds of a
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         bond issue may be used to pay costs incurred before the issuance of
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         the bonds, including costs of environmental review, design,
         planning, acquisition of property, relocation assistance,
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         construction, and operation.
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               SECTION 13. Subsection (a), Section 361.179, Transportation
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         Code, is amended to read as follows:
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                    The authority may:
                     (1) impose tolls for the use of each turnpike project
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         and the different parts or sections of each turnpike project; and
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                     (2) notwithstanding anything in Chapter 202 to the
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         contrary, contract with a person for the use of part of a turnpike
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         project or lease or sell part of a turnpike project, including the
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         right-of-way adjoining the paved portion, for any purpose,
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         including placing on the adjoining right-of-way a gas station,
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         garage, store, hotel, restaurant, railroad tracks, telephone line,
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         telecommunication line, telecommunications facilities and
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         equipment, and electric line, and set the terms for the use, lease,
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         or sale.
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               SECTION 14. Subsection (a), Section 361.181, Transportation
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         Code, is amended to read as follows:
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               (a) Notwithstanding Section 361.179 or any other provision
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         of this chapter to the contrary, the authority may pay the expenses
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         of studying the cost and feasibility and any other expenses
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         relating to the preparation and issuance of turnpike revenue bonds
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         for the construction of a proposed turnpike project by:
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                     (1) using available revenue derived from an existing
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         turnpike project;
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                          borrowing money and issuing interest-bearing
                     (2)
         evidences of indebtedness or entering into a loan agreement payable
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         out of available revenue anticipated to be derived from the
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         operation of an existing turnpike project; [and]
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                     (3) pledging available revenue anticipated to be
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         derived from the operation of an existing turnpike project; and
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                     (4) using money received from the department for
         feasibility studies undertaken at the request of the commission.
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               SECTION 15. Section 361.182, Transportation Code, is amended
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         by adding Subsections (g) and (h) to read as follows:
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               (g) The commission may request that the authority conduct a
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         feasibility study for any proposed turnpike project. The expenses
         of a study requested by the commission shall be paid for by the
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         department. If the turnpike project is constructed, the department
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         shall be reimbursed for money paid to the authority from the
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         proceeds of turnpike revenue bonds issued for, or other proceeds
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         that may be used for, the construction, improvement, extension,
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         expansion, or operation of the project.
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               (h) Notwithstanding any other law, interest and income
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         earned on money in the feasibility study fund shall be deposited in
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the fund.

SECTION 16. Subsection (c), Section 361.232, Transportation Code, is amended to read as follows:

(c) If feasible, the [The] authority shall provide access to properties previously abutting [move and replace, with an equal or better facility,] a county or other public road that is taken for a turnpike project and [affects or severs. The authority] shall pay abutting property owners the expenses or [and] any resulting damages for denial of access to the road.

SECTION 17. Section 361.234, Transportation Code, is amended by adding Subsections (d) and (e) and redesignating existing Subsections (d), (e), and (f) as Subsections (f), (g), and (h) to read as follows:

- The authority may reduce the total costs to be paid by the authority by 10 percent for each 30-day period or portion of a 30-day period that the relocation exceeds the limit specified by the authority unless the utility's failure to timely perform results from a material action or inaction by the authority or conditions that the authority agrees were beyond the reasonable control of the utility. If an owner or operator of a public utility facility does not timely remove or relocate the facility as required under Subsection (b) and the authority relocates the facility, the authority shall relocate the facility in a safe manner that complies with applicable law and utility construction standards recognized by the authority and that minimizes disruption of utility service and notify the public utility of the relocation. Relocation of a public utility facility by the authority is at the expense of the public utility unless the authority determines that the failure of the public utility to timely relocate the facility was the result of circumstances beyond the control of the utility, in which case the authority shall pay the cost of the relocation.
- (e) Notwithstanding anything in this chapter to the contrary:
- (1) Subchapter B, Chapter 181, Utilities Code, applies to the laying and maintenance of pipes, mains, conductors, and other facilities used for conducting gas by a gas utility described in that subchapter through, under, along, across, and over a turnpike project constructed by the authority; and
- (2) the authority has the powers and duties assigned to the commission by that subchapter.
- (f) Notwithstanding anything in this chapter to the contrary, Subchapter C, Chapter 181, Utilities Code [Chapter 228, Acts of the 51st Legislature, Regular Session, 1949 (Article 1436a, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes)], applies to the erection, construction, maintenance, and operation of lines and poles owned by an electric utility [a corporation] described by Section 181.041 [1] of that subchapter [Act] over, under, across, on, and along a turnpike project constructed by the authority. The authority has the powers and duties delegated to the commission by that subchapter [Chapter 228, Acts of the 51st Legislature, Regular Session, 1949 (Article 1436a, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes)].
- (g) [(e)] Notwithstanding anything in this chapter to the contrary, the laws of this state applicable to the use of public roads, streets, and waters of this state by a telephone and telegraph corporation apply to the erection, construction, maintenance, location, and operation of a line, pole, or other fixture by a telephone and telegraph corporation over, under, across, on, and along a turnpike project constructed by the authority.
- $\frac{(h)}{(f)}$ In this section, "public utility facility" means a track, pipe, main, conduit, cable, wire, tower, pole, or other item of equipment or an appliance of a public utility or other person.

12-25 SECTION 18. The heading to Subchapter H, Chapter 361,

12-26 Transportation Code, is amended to read as follows:

12-27 SUBCHAPTER H. TRANSFER OR ACQUISITION OF TURNPIKE PROJECT

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13-2
                               GOVERNMENT CORPORATION]
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               SECTION 19. Subsection (b), Section 361.282, Transportation
 13 - 4
         Code, is amended to read as follows:
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                    The authority, the commission, and the governor must
 13 - 6
         approve the transfer of a [the] turnpike project by the authority
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         as being in the best interests of the state and the entity
 13-8
         receiving the turnpike project.
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               SECTION 20. Subchapter H, Chapter 361, Transportation Code,
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         is amended by adding Section 361.284 to read as follows:
               Sec. 361.284. ACOUISITION OF TURNPIKE PROJECT. With the
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         approval of the commission, the authority may purchase or otherwise
13-13
         acquire a turnpike project from a county, municipality, regional
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         tollway authority, or local government corporation created under
13-15
         Chapter 431. To the extent possible, the cost of the acquisition
13-16
         may be financed in the manner a turnpike project of the authority
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         is financed under Subchapter E.
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               SECTION 21. Subsection (a), Section 361.306, Transportation
         Code, is amended to read as follows:
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               (a) The authority shall adopt rules, procedures, and
13-21
         guidelines governing negotiations to promote fairness, obtain
13-22
         private participants in turnpike projects, and promote confidence
13-23
         among those participants. The rules must contain criteria relating
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         to the qualifications of the participants and the award of the
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         contracts and may authorize the authority to impose a fee for
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         reviewing proposals for private involvement in a turnpike project.
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               SECTION 22. Subsections (e), (f), and (g), Section 545.354,
 14-1
         Transportation Code, are amended to read as follows:
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                   [Sections 545.353 and 545.355 to 545.359 do not apply to
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         any part of a turnpike project constructed and maintained by the
 14 - 4
         authority and covered under Subsection (d) unless a turnpike
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         constructed by the authority becomes part of the state highway
 14-6
         system, in which event the Texas Transportation Commission has the
 14-7
         sole authority to alter prima facie speed limits on the turnpike
 14-8
         project.
14-9
                     The authority may not:
               [<del>(f)</del>]
14-10
                     (1) alter the general rule established by Section
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         545.351(a); or
                          establish a speed limit of more than 70 miles per
14-12
                     (2)
14-13
         hour.
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               (f) [<del>(q)</del>] The authority, in conducting the engineering and
14-15
         traffic investigation specified by Subsection (a), shall follow the
14-16
         procedure for establishing speed zones adopted by the Texas
14-17
         Department of Transportation.
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               SECTION 23. Section 621.102, Transportation Code, is amended
14-19
         by amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsection (h) to read as
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14-21
               (a) Except as provided by Subsection (h), the [The]
14-22
         commission may set the maximum gross weight of a vehicle and its
         load, maximum gross weight of a combination of vehicles and loads,
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14-24
         maximum axle load, or maximum wheel load that may be moved over a
         state highway or a farm or ranch road if the commission finds that
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14-26
         heavier maximum weight would rapidly deteriorate or destroy the
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         road or a bridge or culvert along the road. A maximum weight or
 15-1
         load set under this subsection may not exceed the maximum set by
 15-2
         statute for that weight or load.
 15 - 3
               (h) The Texas Turnpike Authority may set, in the same manner
 15 - 4
         as the commission under this section, the maximum gross weight of a
         vehicle and its load, the maximum gross weight of a combination of
 15-5
         vehicles and loads, maximum axle load, or maximum wheel load that
 1.5 - 6
         may be moved over a turnpike project as defined by Section 361.001.
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               SECTION 24. This Act takes effect September 1, 1999.
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               SECTION 25. The importance of this legislation and the
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         crowded condition of the calendars in both houses create an
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15-11
         emergency and an imperative public necessity that the
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[TO COUNTY, MUNICIPALITY, REGIONAL TOLLWAY AUTHORITY, OR LOCAL

- constitutional rule requiring bills to be read on three several days in each house be suspended, and this rule is hereby suspended. 15-12
- 15-13