

SUBJECT: Collection of TxDOT fees using credit cards or electronic fund transfers

COMMITTEE: Transportation — committee substitute recommended

VOTE: 7 ayes — Alexander, Siebert, Edwards, Hamric, Hawley, Hill, Uher
0 nays
2 absent — Y. Davis, Noriega

WITNESSES: For — None
Against — None
On — Douglas Mink, Texas Department of Transportation

DIGEST: CSHB 2247 would authorize the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) to adopt rules on methods of charging for such goods and services as department publications, travel promotion material, licenses, permits, and registrations. Payment methods could include electronic funds transfer or credit card. TxDOT would be authorized to provide discounts or add service charges in addition to the fee for the product or service, depositing extra revenue generated in the state highway fund.

The bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house.

SUPPORTERS SAY: TxDOT currently cannot accept payments made by credit cards or electronic fund transfers without state authorization, limiting the agency's ability to serve potential customers. This bill would allow customers to pay for TxDOT goods and services in a more efficient manner.

OPPONENTS SAY: No apparent opposition.

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NOTES: The committee substitute would require any revenue generated from credit card service charges to be deposited in the state highway fund. The companion bill, SB 1677 by Bernsen, was reported favorably as amended by the Senate State Affairs Subcommittee on Infrastructure on April 29.