

- SUBJECT:** Increasing fee for oversize or overweight cargo in Hidalgo County
- COMMITTEE:** Transportation — committee substitute recommended
- VOTE:** 9 ayes — Morrison, Martinez, Burkett, Israel, Minjarez, Phillips, Pickett, S. Thompson, Wray
- 0 nays
- 2 absent — Y. Davis, E. Thompson
- 2 present not voting — Goldman, Simmons
- WITNESSES:** For — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Gary Bushell, Alliance for I-69 Texas; Evelyn C. Castillo, Hidalgo County Regional Mobility Authority (HCRMA); Elizabeth Lippincott, Texas Border Coalition)
- Against — None
- On — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Chris Nordloh, Texas DPS)
- BACKGROUND:** Transportation Code, ch. 623, subch. S allows a regional mobility authority to issue permits for the movement of an oversize or overweight vehicle carrying cargo in Hidalgo County on certain highways and roads. Under sec. 623.364, the maximum amount assessed for the permit may not exceed \$80 per trip. Fees collected must be used for the construction and maintenance of these roads and for the administrative costs incurred by the authority. Administrative costs may not exceed 15 percent of the fees collected.
- Observers have suggested that the cap on the fee for a permit issued for the movement of an oversize or overweight vehicle carrying cargo in Hidalgo County is too low when compared to the effort required by regional authorities to issue those permits and maintain the permit registration system.

DIGEST: CSHB 2276 would increase the cap on the permit fee for the movement of an oversize or overweight vehicle carrying cargo on certain roads in Hidalgo County to \$200 per trip. It also would decrease the percentage of fees allowed to cover administrative costs to 10 percent.

The bill would require up to 5 percent of the fees collected to be used to leverage funding from other sources to construct a specified bridge, improve certain roads, and support the construction of roads proposed by the City of Donna that would connect a proposed commercial import lot to an existing road and highway.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2017.

NOTES: A companion bill, SB 2227 by Hinojosa, was approved by the Senate on April 26 and referred to the House Committee on Transportation on May 8.