

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
77R2125 ELG-D

S.C.R. 8
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Business & Commerce
3/20/2001
As Filed

DIGEST

During the federal fiscal year 2000, over 50 million private vehicles passed through ports of entry on the Texas-Mexico border. Many of these private vehicles are driven by commuters who cross the border routinely and experience waits at the border checkpoints varying from a few minutes to a few hours. Many ports of entry on the United States border with Canada and Mexico have Dedicated Commuter Lanes (DCLs) which reduce waiting times for participants. DCLs are designated traffic lanes at border checkpoints that are restricted to the vehicles of frequent border travelers who have passed background checks that qualify them for expedited entry and minimal inspection. A participant's vehicle is equipped with electronic tags that signal the identity of the driver and authorized passengers to border personnel, allowing a quick processing for which an annual fee is assessed to the participant.

PURPOSE

As proposed, S.C.R. 8 submits the following resolutions:

Requests the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) to assist local efforts and to work with the federal government to establish DCLs at Texas-Mexico border crossings in order to facilitate cross-border employment and the free movement of people and goods. Provides that the secretary of state will forward an official copy of this resolution to the executive director of TxDOT.