

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
77R3898 JD-D

S.J.R. 12
By: Shapiro
State Affairs
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As Filed

DIGEST AND PURPOSE

Currently, the state constitution prevents the state from contributing a portion of the cost of a toll project without repayment. Many toll projects are not built because they fail to generate enough revenue to pay for themselves. The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), acting on behalf of the state, cannot fund these much needed projects in a timely a manner because necessary funding is not available. As proposed, S.J.R. 12 allows the state, through TxDOT, to contribute a portion of the cost of a toll project without a requirement for repayment.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

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

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Section 52-b, Article III, Texas Constitution, to authorize the legislature to authorize the Texas Department of Transportation to grant or loan money for the acquisition, construction, maintenance, and operation, rather than simply the costs of turnpikes, roads, and toll bridges. Deletes language the regarding the Texas Turnpike Authority or any successor agency. Deletes language requiring any monies expended out of the state highway fund to be repaid to the fund from tolls or other turnpike revenue.

SECTION 2. Requires that this constitutional amendment be put before the voters in an election on November 6, 2001. Requires that the ballot be printed to permit a person to vote for or against the proposition and sets forth specific wording to be contained on the ballot.