

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

Senate Research Center

S.B. 2243  
By: Hinojosa  
Transportation  
6/4/2021  
Enrolled

### **AUTHOR'S / SPONSOR'S STATEMENT OF INTENT**

In 1968, the United States government began requiring new international bridges to obtain Presidential permits (Executive Order 11423). In 1995, the State of Texas established a similar requirement that political subdivisions and private entities first obtain approval from the Texas Transportation Commission before applying for a Presidential permit. Current statute applies to new bridges as well as the expansion of existing international bridges, and there is no provision that allows the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) to grant exemptions even for existing bridges that have already received a Presidential permit.

S.B. 2243 amends the Transportation Code to align the state process with the new federal permitting process and clarifies that the TxDOT permit is required only for new bridges over the Rio Grande.

(Original Author's / Sponsor's Statement of Intent)

S.B. 2243 amends current law relating to approval for certain projects related to bridges over the Rio Grande.

### **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 201.612, Transportation Code, by adding Subsection (h), as follows:

(h) Provides that a political subdivision is not required to comply with Subsection (a) (relating to requiring a political subdivision or entity authorized to construct or finance the construction of a bridge over the Rio Grande to fulfill certain duties) for a project that:

(1) is for the reconstruction, improvement, expansion, or maintenance of an existing bridge; and

(2) has received approval from the United States under 33 U.S.C. Chapter 11, Subchapter IV (33 U.S.C. Section 535 et seq.), authorizing the project.

SECTION 2. Effective date: upon passage or September 1, 2021.