

- SUBJECT:** Conducting a study on the efficiency of certain vehicle inspections
- COMMITTEE:** Transportation — committee substitute recommended
- VOTE:** 11 ayes — Canales, E. Thompson, Ashby, Davis, Harris, Landgraf, Lozano, Martinez, Ortega, Perez, Rogers
- 0 nays
- 2 absent — Bucy, Smithee
- WITNESSES:** For — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Guadalupe Cuellar, City of El Paso)
- Against — None
- BACKGROUND:** Some have raised concerns about the efficiency of the inspection process for commercial vehicles at the U.S.-Mexico border and suggested a feasibility study on the colocation of federal and state motor vehicle inspection facilities at ports of entry in Texas.
- DIGEST:** CSHB 4201 would require the Texas A&M Transportation Institute (TTI), in consultation with the Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and the Department of Public Safety (DPS), to conduct a feasibility study on erecting and maintaining a colocated federal and state inspection facility at each port of entry in Texas for the inspection of motor vehicles for compliance with federal and state commercial motor vehicle regulations.
- Feasibility study.** The study would have to include a summary of:
- past efforts by DPS and the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) to maintain colocated federal and state inspection facilities at each port of entry;
 - any current efforts to colocate or separate federal and state inspection facilities at ports of entry in other states;
 - current wait times at inspection facilities at each port of entry;

- current priorities and expectations of the TxDOT and DPS regarding motor vehicle inspections;
- the perspectives of TxDOT and DPS on the advantages and disadvantages of colocated federal and state inspection facilities; and
- FMSCA's perspective on the advantages and disadvantages of colocated federal and state inspection facilities, as solicited by TTI.

The study also would be required to include:

- potential scenarios for the collocation of federal and state inspection facilities at each port of entry in Texas and an analysis of each scenario's advantages and disadvantages;
- an analysis of potential economic benefits of collocating federal and state inspection facilities at each port of entry; and
- an analysis of the potential effects of collocating federal and state inspection facilities at each point of entry on wait times at inspection facilities.

In conducting the study, TTI would be required to solicit the FMSCA perspective on the advantages and disadvantages of colocated federal and state inspection facilities.

Report. Before the study was completed, TTI would have to contact FMCSA to arrange receipt of the report. TTI would be required to report the results of the study and any recommendations to FMCSA in the manner and format requested by FMCSA.

TTI would be required to submit to the Legislature a report on the results of the study and any recommendations for legislative or other action by December 1, 2022.

Implementation. TTI would be required to implement the bill's provisions only if the Legislature appropriated money specifically for that purpose. Otherwise, TTI could, but would not be required to, implement the bill's provisions using other appropriations available.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2021, and its provisions would expire January 1, 2023.

NOTES: According to the Legislative Budget Board, the bill would have a negative impact of \$350,000 to general revenue through fiscal 2023.