

CHAPTER 799

H.B. No. 1678

AN ACT

relating to the authority of the Texas Turnpike Authority to study the feasibility of high-speed rail facilities; authorizing payment of the cost thereof out of certain funds of the Texas Turnpike Authority; authorizing the Texas Turnpike Authority to acquire an option on right-of-way; enacting other provisions related to the subject of this legislation; providing for precedence of this Act in the event of any conflict with any other law.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. Chapter 410, Acts of the 53rd Legislature, Regular Session, 1953 (Article 6674v, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes), is amended by adding Section 28 to read as follows:

Sec. 28. STUDY OF HIGH-SPEED RAIL FACILITIES. (a) Notwithstanding any conflicting provisions in this Act and superseding the same where in conflict with this section, the authority is hereby authorized, empowered, and directed to study whether the construction and operation of high-speed rail facilities are financially and economically feasible among and between the cities of Houston, Dallas, Fort Worth, Austin, and San Antonio and file a report, with specific legislative recommendations, with the offices of the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives prior to the convening of the 71st Session of the Legislature.

(b) The costs of the high-speed rail study may be paid from the Texas Turnpike Authority Feasibility Study Fund established in Section 12b of this Act. The authority is authorized and directed to seek and receive additional funds from the Federal Railroad Administration, other federal or state agencies, or from any other public or private source available to pay for the cost of the high-speed rail study.

(c) The Board of Directors of the authority may acquire an option on the necessary right-of-way for any proposed high-speed rail facilities; provided, however, no funds of the authority may be used to pay for an option on high-speed rail right-of-way.

(d) This section shall take effect immediately.

SECTION 2. If any provision of this Act conflicts with any other law, the provisions of this Act shall prevail.

SECTION 3. The importance of this legislation and the crowded condition of the calendars in both houses create an emergency and an imperative public necessity that the constitutional rule requiring bills to be read on three several days in each house be suspended, and this rule is hereby suspended, and that this Act take effect and be in force from and after its passage, and it is so enacted.

Passed by the House on April 28, 1987, by the following vote: Yeas 139, Nays 4, 3 present, not voting; and that the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 1678 on May 25, 1987, by a non-record vote. Passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 20, 1987, by the following vote: Yeas 30, Nays 0.

Approved June 19, 1987.

Effective Aug. 31, 1987, 90 days after date of adjournment.