

10D. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Background

Staff has followed state legislation related to transportation and Houston Galveston region. The 87th Texas Legislative session ended May 31, 2021 with the passage of two related bills through administrative filing (not signed in the requisite time by Governor Abbott).

Current Situation

The 87th Texas Legislature has focused on issues besides transportation. Fewer bills were filed in this session related to transportation and air quality than in the 86th Legislature. However, two bills passed both houses and were filed. They will become law on September 1, 2021.

Senate Bill 1990 sponsored by Senator Miles will allow advanced technology systems, bus rapid transit to empower the Gulf Coast Rail District to advance high capacity transit in our region. <https://capitol.texas.gov/tlodocs/87R/billtext/pdf/SB01990F.pdf#navpanes=0>.

House Bill 1698 sponsored by Representative Raney would allow counties with a population exceeding 190,000 but not more than 1,500,000 to increase their registration fee by up to \$10 for transportation purposes. However, the increase would require approval in an electoral referendum. It would impact Fort Bend, Montgomery, Brazoria, and Galveston Counties in the region. <https://capitol.texas.gov/tlodocs/87R/billtext/pdf/HB01698F.pdf#navpanes=0>

Action Requested

Informational only.