

1-1 By: Nichols, Alvarado, Johnson S.B. No. 1555
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed February 21, 2025; March 6, 2025,
1-3 read first time and referred to Committee on Transportation;
1-4 March 17, 2025, reported adversely, with favorable Committee
1-5 Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 9, Nays 0; March 17, 2025,
1-6 sent to printer.)

1-7	COMMITTEE VOTE				
1-8		Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-9	Nichols	X			
1-10	West	X			
1-11	Bettencourt	X			
1-12	Hagenbuch	X			
1-13	Hinojosa of Hidalgo	X			
1-14	Johnson	X			
1-15	King	X			
1-16	Miles	X			
1-17	Perry	X			

1-18 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 1555 By: Nichols

1-19 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-20 AN ACT

1-21 relating to a grant program to fund certain railroad grade
1-22 separation projects.

1-23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-24 SECTION 1. Chapter 471, Transportation Code, is amended by
1-25 adding Section 471.010 to read as follows:

1-26 Sec. 471.010. GRANT PROGRAM FOR CERTAIN RAILROAD GRADE
1-27 SEPARATION PROJECTS. (a) For the purpose of increasing public
1-28 safety, enhancing economic development, and reducing traffic, the
1-29 department shall establish and administer a program to award grants
1-30 to political subdivisions of this state to fund:

1-31 (1) rail-roadway grade separation projects that are
1-32 located at intersections of railroads and public roadways that are
1-33 not part of the state highway system; and

1-34 (2) rail-pedestrian grade separation projects that
1-35 are located at intersections of railroads and public pedestrian
1-36 crossings.

1-37 (b) Each grant awarded under this section must be approved
1-38 by the commission. The commission may not approve a grant under
1-39 this section unless the commission determines that at least 10
1-40 percent of the total project costs will be provided by a source
1-41 other than the state.

1-42 (c) The department may fund the grant program under this
1-43 section only from money appropriated by the legislature for that
1-44 purpose and from gifts and grants, including grants from the
1-45 federal government. The department may solicit and accept gifts
1-46 and grants from any source for the purposes of this section. Money
1-47 deposited to the credit of the state highway fund may not be used to
1-48 fund a grant awarded under this section.

1-49 (d) A political subdivision that receives a grant under this
1-50 section shall designate the department to manage contracting for,
1-51 in accordance with Subchapter A, Chapter 223, and supervision of
1-52 the planning and construction of a project for which the grant was
1-53 awarded. A political subdivision shall enter into an agreement
1-54 with the department prescribing the terms of a designation under
1-55 this subsection in accordance with applicable state or federal law.
1-56 The department, acting as the designee of a political subdivision
1-57 under this section, shall make each contract in accordance with the
1-58 law governing the making of contracts by or on behalf of the state.

1-59 (e) The commission shall adopt rules as necessary to
1-60 implement this section.

2-4 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
2-5 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
2-6 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
2-7 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
2-8 Act takes effect September 1, 2025.

2-9 * * * * *