

HB 2253 -- Highway Corridors

Sponsor: Faith

This bill changes the laws regarding highway corridors. In its main provisions, the bill:

(1) Requires the Highways and Transportation Commission to file a certified copy of a corridor map with each regulatory authority having jurisdiction over any property within the corridor and with the recorder of deeds for each county in which the corridor is located. Currently, the commission may file these copies;

(2) Removes provisions which specify that the commission must not file or record a corridor map for a new or relocated highway funded with state funds and without any federal funds or a corridor map for a highway corridor of a new or relocated highway within an area which is already developed at or near its maximum use;

(3) Requires the commission to take any action necessary in circuit court to prevent any violations of the highway corridor law or to undo any action that violates this law and to immediately obtain a court order to stop any construction in violation of the law. Currently, the commission may take these actions;

(4) Specifies that when, instead of if, the commission acquires property where development has occurred in violation of the law, the property must be returned to its original condition prior to the construction at the property owner's expense; and

(5) Requires the State Auditor to annually audit and investigate any failure of the commission to comply with the requirement to take court actions to prevent violations of the highway corridor law. If the auditor finds any violations, knowingly made by the commission or its employees, which caused a loss of state road fund moneys, the commission must freeze the existing salaries of the employees involved with the violations for the following fiscal year.