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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR: Carraro DATE TYPED: 2/18/03 HB _____

SHORT TITLE: Highway Rest Area Maintenance Funding SB 611

ANALYST: Reynolds-Forte

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY03	FY04	FY03	FY04		
	See Narrative				

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Responses Received From
State Highway and Transportation Department

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

SB611 adds new language to the Highway Beautification Act which 1) prohibits the State Highway and Transportation Department from using state or federal dollars to supervise, maintain or operate a safety rest area, and 2) gives the Department the authority to contract with private food providers to supervise, maintain or operate the safety rest areas and/or to operate a private restaurant at the safety rest area.

SB611 also changes the name of the state highway commission to the state transportation commission. This brings the law into compliance with the recently passed constitutional amendment.

The bill has a July 1, 2003 effective date.

Significant Issues

If state funds cannot be used to clean, operate or maintain these rest areas, and there are not “private food providers” who are willing to operate and maintain the rest areas, the Department will not be able to use their funds or staff to clean or maintain the rest area.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Approximately \$4 million is contained in the State Highway and Transportation Department's maintenance program budget for FY04 in the General Appropriation Act for maintenance and improvements of rest areas. If there are not qualified providers to do the work, these funds will need to be redistributed for other purposes within the Department if SB611 is enacted.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The Department currently has contracts in place with private contractors, which provide labor, equipment and materials required to clean, maintain and make minor repairs to the rest areas. Any of these contracts which do not meet the "private food provider" requirement in the bill will need to be terminated. New contracts will need to be established.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

Major utility infrastructure is not currently available at the rest areas.

POSSIBLE QUESTION

1. If there is no "private food provider" interested in operating a particular rest area, will the rest area need to be closed?

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