

SUBJECT: Operation of cable TV systems by general law cities

COMMITTEE: Urban Affairs — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 8 ayes — Hill, Bailey, Davila, Ehrhardt, Staples, Thompson, Tillery, Woolley

0 nays

1 absent — Conley

WITNESSES: For — Gary Brown, City Manager of Floydada; Shanna Igo, Texas Municipal League

Against — None

DIGEST: HB 1281 would allow general law cities to own and operate cable TV systems.

SUPPORTERS SAY: Home rule cities, which operate under their own charters, already may own or operate cable television systems. Yet general law cities, usually small-city markets that are not attractive to private providers of cable TV services, lack this specific authority in the Local Government Code. Granting general law cities the authority to own or operate cable TV systems would allow them to provide their citizens access to better cable TV service and create parity with home rule cities.

OPPONENTS SAY: No apparent opposition.