

**SUBJECT:** Emergency grants or loans to an aviation facility

**COMMITTEE:** Transportation — favorable, without amendment

**VOTE:** 8 ayes — Alexander, Bosse, Alonzo, Clemons, Moreno, Price, Siebert, Uher

0 nays

1 absent — Edwards

**WITNESSES:** For — None

Against — None

On — Tom Griebel, Texas Department of Transportation

**BACKGROUND:** The Aeronautics Regulation Act, VACS art. 46c, requires the Texas Transportation Commission to hold a public hearing before awarding loans or grants. The commission meets monthly and must, by a majority vote, approve all loans made by the commission; grants must be approved by a two-thirds vote of the commission.

**DIGEST:** HB 2180 would amend art. 46c-6 to allow not only the commission, but also its authorized representative to hold a hearing prior to approval of any grants or loans by the commission.

HB 2180 would also authorize the executive director of the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), or the director's designee, to award a loan or grant in the case of an emergency without holding a public hearing. An emergency would be defined as any situation or condition at a general aviation airport requiring immediate attention due to an existing unsafe condition. The unsafe condition should be of sufficient concern to require the filing of a notice with the Federal Aviation Administration.

The executive director, or the director's designee, would need to certify in writing the circumstances related to the emergency prior to the award and report the details of the emergency conditions to each member of the

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commission in writing before the fifth day following the award of the contract.

This bill would take immediate effect if approved by two-thirds of the membership of each house.