

SUBJECT: Combined subdivision petitions to enforce speed limits on private roads

COMMITTEE: Transportation — committee substitute recommended

VOTE: 7 ayes — Alexander, Edwards, Hamric, Hawley, Hill, Noriega, Uher

0 nays

2 absent — Siebert, Y. Davis

WITNESSES: None

DIGEST: CSHB 434 would allow the Texas Transportation Commission to extend speed restrictions to a road in a private subdivision or across adjacent subdivisions if the subdivision and any adjacent subdivisions had a combined population of at least 400 residents. The bill would require each adjoining subdivision, as well as the subdivision with the private road, to have a plat on file with the county to qualify. The commission would have to receive a petition from a majority of landowners with property adjacent to the road to extend the speed restrictions.

The bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house.

SUPPORTERS SAY: Transportation Code, sec. 542.006(a) now allows landowners in private subdivisions in unincorporated areas to have speed limits enforced on adjoining private roads only if the subdivision where they reside has at least 400 residents. Some private roads in subdivisions with fewer than 400 residents need speed limit enforcement because the roads handle traffic from several subdivisions. Landowners along these roads should have the right to petition for speed limit enforcement if more than 400 residents from adjoining subdivisions are likely to use the road. Local law enforcement officials need this change in state law to enforce speed limits on private roads when the residents desire it.

OPPONENTS SAY: No apparent opposition.

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NOTES: The committee substitute included roads that run across adjacent subdivisions as eligible for the extension of speed restrictions.