

- SUBJECT:** Granting general contract power to Texas Department of Transportation
- COMMITTEE:** Transportation — committee substitute recommended
- VOTE:** 5 ayes — Alexander, Hawley, Hamric, Hill, Pickett  
0 nays  
4 absent — Y. Davis, Edwards, Noriega, Swinford
- WITNESSES:** For — *Registered but did not testify:* Shanna Igo, Texas Municipal League; Tony Privett, City of Lubbock  
Against — None  
On — Michael W. Behrens and Jennifer Soldano, Texas Department of Transportation
- BACKGROUND:** Several statutes give the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) authority to contract in specific circumstances, such as road building. Unlike several other state agencies, however, TxDOT cannot contract generally with outside entities.
- DIGEST:** CSHB 1831 would allow TxDOT to contract with any public or private entity to carry out its powers, duties, and responsibilities. By rule, TxDOT would have to adopt policies and procedures consistent with state procurement practices for soliciting and awarding contracts executed under this authority.  
  
The bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2001.
- NOTES:** According to the bill's fiscal note, although CSHB 1831 would have no significant fiscal implication for the state, local governments would realize significant revenue gains through project and service contracts and would save significant legal costs.

The bill as filed did not require TxDOT to adopt policies and procedures consistent with procurement practices for this type of contracting.