

**SUBJECT:** Public access to meetings and records of development corporations

**COMMITTEE:** State Affairs — favorable, without amendment

**VOTE:** 10 ayes — Wolens, S. Turner, Bailey, Counts, Danburg, Hunter, D. Jones, Marchant, McClendon, Merritt

0 nays

5 absent — Brimer, Craddick, Hilbert, Longoria, McCall

**WITNESSES:** For — *Registered did not testify:* Donnis Bagget, Texas Daily Newspaper Association and Texas Press Association; Rick Levy, Texas AFL-CIO; Michael Schneider, Texas Association of Broadcasters; Tom “Smitty” Smith, Public Citizen; Suzy Woodford, Common Cause of Texas

Against — None

**BACKGROUND:** Government Code, chapter 551 requires meetings of governmental bodies to be open to the public. Chapter 552 provides open records access to public information held by governmental bodies. The Development Corporation Act of 1979 authorizes creation of economic development corporations to promote general welfare through economic growth.

**DIGEST:** HB 838 would make the governing board of any economic development corporation that received public funds subject to open meetings and open records requirements.

The bill would not apply to an economic development corporation created under the Development Corporation Act of 1979 and already subject to open meetings and open records requirements.

This bill would take effect September 1, 2001.